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# *The* **KINGBIRD**

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Volume 61 No. 3

September 2011

pp. 197-288

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## CONTENTS

The Fire Island Hawkwatch Robert J. Kurtz .....	198
A "Sooty" Fox Sparrow in Central Park, New York City Stephen Chang .....	203
Hybrid Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., New York, 19 May 2011 Christopher L. Wood and Jessie Barry .....	206
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. 63rd Annual Meeting, Savannah, New York, October 23, 2010 .....	208
Highlights of the Season — Spring 2011 S. S. Mitra .....	215
Regional Reports .....	222
Photo Gallery .....	241
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines and Map of Reporting Regions .....	287

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Cover Illustration – Eastern Kingbird, *Suffolk*, © S. S. Mitra.

# THE FIRE ISLAND HAWKWATCH

**Robert J Kurtz**

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The Fire Island Hawkwatch (FIRE) is a fall season hawkwatch located at the meeting point of the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) and the Robert Moses State Park (RMSP). It is a barrier island watch and therefore differs in a number of interesting ways from the vast majority of North American hawkwatches, which are on the mainland. Although the number of raptor species that occur commonly at Fire Island is somewhat restricted compared to mainland watches, FIRE offers exceptional opportunities to see migrating Osprey, Northern Harrier, and falcons, given favorable (northerly) winds. We welcome all raptors, of course, but nature holds the cards and these three types are without question the focus of the FIRE watch.

**When**—The window for the observation of migrating raptors at the watch is 20 August–20 November, but from 20 August–9 September and 1–20 November, the watch is only conducted on days with favorable winds. The rest of the time the watch is staffed every day unless weather conditions are very bad (e.g., heavy all day rains, hurricanes, etc.). The time frame between 10 September and 31 October is used for statistical analyses, performed by the duo of Drew Panko and Trudy Battaly, yielding insights regarding population trends and comparisons to other watches.

**Access and weather**—This watch is of course open to one and all, especially those interested in diurnal raptors. Should your time be limited, choose a day when strong (10+ mph) northwest winds are predicted, especially from 21 September–15 October, our peak timeframe. If you are mostly interested in *Buteos* I would suggest an inland watch, as we average only 1–2 individuals of this genus per year.

For those not too familiar with Long Island and its barrier beaches, a search of *Google Earth* will help in getting you to the vicinity of the watch. Once you cross the last bridge heading south on the Robert Moses Causeway there is a traffic circle and tower immediately in front of you. Proceed around the circle 270 degrees and head east. Go past parking field #4 and enter the last field, #5. Fee collection varies seasonally and in other ways, but if you arrive before 7 a.m. you can avoid a parking fee. There are two routes to reach the watch from the east end of parking lot #5. The fastest way is to follow the cinder path that leads out of the parking lot and parallels the northeast exit from field #5. Just follow the cinder path to the east; once you've rounded the bend on this path, the hawkwatch platform will become evident rather quickly. Alternatively, one could take the boardwalk; the entrance is located about half way north/south at the east end of the parking lot. Take the boardwalk to the point where it meets



the road into FINS, turn to the left and walk a short way back up that road; the platform is located ahead on a small rise.

The platform is not large and access on busy days is on a first come first served basis. It can get crowded during the peak of the migration, especially with north or northwest winds. We do try to keep some space available on the upper tier of the platform for the official daily observer(s) since they are, after all, responsible for the count.

We also have gotten an impressive diversity of non-raptor species (including many RBA- and even NYSARC-worthy species!), but these would be the focus of a separate article. As a note of caution, please stay out of grassy areas/underbrush. Ticks can be numerous and many harbor diseases that cause grief to humans—not just Lyme disease, but also other infections that can be substantially more serious.

**History of the Watch**—The watch at Fire Island was informal with little to no formal data gathered before 1982. Basically, it was a small group of ‘raptorphiles’ who knew that the Fall at the barrier beach on favorable winds meant there would be a hawk flight and so they each watched from their favorite site in the vicinity of where the platform now stands. Then in 1982 it was decided that a formal hawkwatch should be established; the way was led by Drew Panko and Ted Leviness and we became an official HMANA (Hawk Migration Association of North America) site. A designated acronym was chosen: Fire Island Raptor Enumerators (FIRE). The watch site at the beginning was located close to where the platform is now, but the platform itself, built by the State of New York, dates only to circa 2000. Without going into details, let’s just say we were amazed when we heard we were going to get a platform and actually watched it being built! I must add here that the tireless efforts of the late John Fritz were most instrumental in the platform coming to fruition.

Collection of data on migrating birds, with the major emphasis being diurnal raptors, began in the fall of 1982. It has always been an all-volunteer watch staffed by a cadre of dedicated watchers; early on most but not all of the watchers came from Westchester County—quite a trek! The 1982 effort was preliminary and as such there was only 86 hours of coverage on 14 days. For the next five years the average coverage was 250 hours and 38 days of observation. Over the last 20 years the FIRE hawkwatch has matured with regard to total hours and days of coverage (i.e., an average of 432 hours over 61 days of coverage). During 2010 there were 465 hours and 63 days of observation; given weather conditions and the relatively short season associated with this watch, these numbers are about ‘maxed out’.

The number of diurnal raptors seen has varied substantially over the last 20 year. Reasons for the variation likely include weather and breeding success of those species and populations that pass the point of our watch. Changes in the number of hawks can occur dramatically from year to year, for instance, in 2009 we recorded only 2893 raptors during 414 hours (64 days) of coverage; this was the lowest number of diurnal raptors since 1984 when only 212 hours of coverage occurred. Then, in 2010 with 463 hours of coverage we tallied 5781, or

almost exactly twice the number of individuals as during 2009! During 2010 four records for species totals fell, namely Osprey (old record 508, now 557), Northern Harrier (434, now 523), Merlin (1648, now 2119), Peregrine (320, now 325). Additionally, the beleaguered American Kestrel numbers which had fallen to a catastrophic level of 518 in 2009 bounced back to an encouraging 1645! The trend for Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers, which has also shown a dismal decline, was also reversed in 2010; it rose from 291 in 2009 to 543 in 2010. This much variation from year to year is dramatic and, again, likely the result of weather and breeding success. The watch is always hoping for strong 10-20 MPH winds out of the northwest. This wind direction was definitely present during the 2010 watch season, a clear change from the previous year. In fact, the 2010 season featured the most favorable winds we've seen in years.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS AND TRENDS

Trends of course are a critical component of the migration monitoring efforts. Any given watch site is not likely to show meaningful trends (perhaps some exceptions exist, such as Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Cape May), in part due to inherent variables. It is, however, the combined observations at all of the HMANA sites that provide a window into population trends. The information presented below is the result of the continuous effort of Drew Panko and Trudy Battaly, without whose efforts the following population profiles would be unlikely to have been attempted except in the most general way.

Table 1. Seasonal averages for nine species of diurnal raptors at the FIRE watch, 1991-2010. OS—Osprey, BE—Bald Eagle, NH—Northern Harrier, SS—Sharp-shinned Hawk, CH—Cooper's Hawk, NG—Northern Goshawk, AK—American Kestrel, ML—Merlin, PG—Peregrine Falcon.

OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	AK	ML	PG	Total	Hrs	Days
305	3	230	455	28	2	1360	1291	180	3876	432	61

### Osprey

The trend analysis at Fire Island has been very positive, unlike Lighthouse Point, CT (LPH), where the trend has been negative (but not as negative as FIRE is positive), while the trend at Cape May Hawk Watch, NJ (CMHW) is almost flat. During the 2010 season, both Cape May and FIRE exhibited a sharp increase in the number of Osprey passing by; this was not the case at LHP, where numbers remained below average. Why this 'problem' at LPH? Good question! Considering observational data it would appear that the decline at LPH may be due to a local condition associated with nesting Osprey along the coast east of LHP in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Additionally, the Osprey passing at LHP are only remotely likely to be some of the same individuals as those seen at

FIRE due to location of the LHP watch in relation to FIRE, approximately 50 miles to the north-northeast.

### **Bald Eagle**

While numbers seen at the FIRE watch are too small to allow true statistical conclusions and comparisons, it is interesting to note that the trends at the FIRE watch mimic to some degree the very positive trends at mainland sites.

### **Northern Harrier**

Numbers were up sharply at all three sites (FIRE, LHP, and CMHW). Given that the vast majority of harriers seen at FIRE during 2010 were hatch year (HY) birds, it seems reasonable to conclude that a very successful hatch year for this species took place. The trend, however, is somewhat confounding in that at FIRE there is a substantial positive trend while at LHP and CMHW the trends are negative. It is possible that several years of less than successful nesting resulted in fewer adults and since both LHP and CMHW are on the mainland, they are more likely to see more adult harrier in their totals versus FIRE, hence a negative slope.

### **Sharp-shinned Hawk**

Alas, for this species, the smallest of the North American *Accipiters*, the trend is downward at all three sites and at about the same slope. The only encouraging sign is that all three watches had moderately to sharply increased numbers in 2010.

### **Cooper's Hawk**

Neither statistical analysis nor comparison to other hawkwatches was performed. It can be said that in general the number of Cooper's Hawk at FIRE for the last six years are the highest numbers since the watch began.

### **Northern Goshawk**

No analysis could be performed because only an average of two individuals per Fall season pass the FIRE watch.

### **American Kestrel**

Sadly, the trend for the smallest of North American falcons is quite negative and about at the same slope at all three hawkwatches analyzed. As with the Sharp-shinned Hawk, the 2010 season provided a bright spot in that all three sites exhibited a sharp increase in sightings. And as with the Sharp-shinned Hawk, it will take several years of improved nesting success to turn the tide of the decline.

### **Merlin**

While Merlin trends have remained nearly constant for LHP and CMHW, the trend at FIRE is up at a substantial slope, even without the 2010 record setting year. The upward trend is, however, confounded by the first few years of records

(i.e., 1982-1984) where only low numbers of Merlin were seen, most likely due to hours expended at the watch. If one eliminates these years as not representative due to effort, then the Merlin trend line is still positive but not in a statistically significant way. By adding the years 1984 and 2010 (record year) to the analysis, the positive trend slope is increased. Adding these two years represent the 'front' and 'back' end of the Merlin data collected to date, however, the statistical analysis to determine if this positive increase in slope is statistically significant has not yet been undertaken. The 'gut feeling' is that while the positive trend has increased with the addition of these two years, the slope is not steep enough to indicate a positive statistical increase. Still, the math needs to be performed to accept or reject the 'gut feeling'. As Drew Panko stated, he would not trust the trend unless it continued for another few years.

### **Peregrine Falcon**

All three watches analyzed have a very positive slope; the only rational conclusion is that the species population is growing. The growth is no doubt due to the end of the use of DDT as well as the Peregrine hacking program that has resulted in a remarkable increase in local nesting throughout the northeastern USA.

\*\*\*\*\*

As birders, we know that bird populations are dynamic and changes will continue to occur. We at the FIRE hawkwatch will continue to observe, report and calculate the trends of the diurnal raptors passing by each fall and forward our information in our efforts to continue to add to the raptor record.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

To all the volunteers that help out at the watch, a hearty thank you for your efforts, without which the data could never have existed or continue to be collected; to Drew Panko and Ted Leviness for their efforts to actually initiate the watch; and of course to Drew Panko and Trudy Battaly for their unflagging efforts at the yearly organization of the watch, including but not limited to recruiting new watchers, and for their yeoman's work performing analysis of the data and reviewing this document.

## A “SOOTY” FOX SPARROW IN CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK CITY

**Stephen Chang**  
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On 13 May 2010 in the early morning, I was birding on the wood chip path on the east side of Strawberry Fields in Central Park, New York City. Near the north end of the path, I noticed three sparrows feeding at a bend in the path about 70 feet away. Two were White-crowned Sparrows, the third I recognized as a Fox Sparrow. However, this sparrow was not the usual “Red” form that we see in the East. It was much darker and without the obvious red color of the “Red” Fox Sparrow. I had seen the “Sooty” form of the Fox Sparrow in Seward, Alaska, and thought the bird in front of me could be this form. Since I was not familiar with the other Fox Sparrow forms, I could only say that this bird was not a “Red”, but one of the forms found in the West.

After I had observed the bird for about two minutes, Andrew Rubenfeld joined me and also saw the bird and agreed it was not a “Red”. The Fox Sparrow at one point came within twenty feet of us, then flew off. Importantly, Andrew put out word of our finding via a chain of communications: he told Stephanie Seymour and Rob Fanning, who were nearby, they called Karen Fung. She sent out emails to the New York birding lists. Thus many birders were alerted and were able to view and photograph the bird. The bird was seen later in the morning and afternoon, and remained at least through the following day.

In size, the bird was slightly larger than the White-crowned Sparrows. Its behavior was typical of sparrows, initially feeding on the ground with White-crowned Sparrows. In a subsequent viewing in the afternoon it was scratching and feeding in dry leaves underneath a bush.

The bird had a dark, gray-brown head with no obvious pattern, no streaking on the head. Its crown was very slightly rufous. A small part of the chin was clear and white. The breast was heavily streaked, with the streaking converging onto a central area. The streaking extended to the belly. Its back was a plain, dark brown. The tail was dark brown, but with a slight rufous on the tail and rump; the slightly rufous tail was only apparent in the afternoon when viewing conditions were brighter. The wings were plain and about the same color as the back, but it had one white feather edge at the bend of the folded wing, on both left and right sides. The eye was dark. It had a thin eye ring (in photographs a break in the rear is visible). The bill was a uniform gray. Overall, it was a very dark bird. See Figure 2, page 242.

This bird comports well with descriptions of the “Sooty” Fox Sparrow in field guides (Sibley 2000, Peterson 2008). The lower mandible is usually described as having yellow at the base, but apparently “Sootys” with all gray bills are also seen (Patterson 2007). The “Sooty” Fox Sparrow breeds along the

coast from the Aleutians to northwest Washington State. They winter mainly on the coast from central British Columbia to southern California.

### **The Fox Sparrow Complex**

There are 18 subspecies of Fox Sparrow generally recognized (Weckstein 2002). These can be grouped into four races, with the potential of the complex being split into four corresponding species: “Red” Fox Sparrow (*iliaca* group, the usual Fox Sparrow in the East), “Sooty” Fox Sparrow (*unalaschensis* group), “Slate-colored” Fox Sparrow (*schistacea* group), and “Thick-billed” Fox Sparrow (*megarhyncha* group).

Beadle and Rising (2002) consider Fox Sparrows as comprising four species. The issue of splitting is too complex and unsettled for a full discussion here. On the one hand, morphology and mitochondrial DNA analysis suggest four species (Zink and Weckstein 2003). On the other hand, there is some interbreeding between the groups, especially between the “Slate-colored” and “Thick-billed” groups. Further, microsatellite analysis showed clear separation of the “Red”, “Sooty” and “Thick-billed” groups, but less distinct separation of the “Slate-colored” group from the others (Zink 2008). More research is needed. The AOU last considered, and did not approve, the potential split in 2003 (Banks 2004).

### **Other non-*iliaca* Fox Sparrow Reports**

There is at least one prior “Sooty” Fox Sparrow sighting reported from New York, a bird seen 7 May 2005 in Vermontville, Franklin County (Peterson 2005) as reported in *The Kingbird* season highlights. In the Northeast, there is at least one “Sooty” sighting, from New Hampshire 9-12 December 2009 (Chase 2009). However, a recent analysis has raised the possibility that this was the subspecies *altivagans* (Brinkley 2010). This subspecies breeds in western Canada and winters in California, and has been grouped with either *iliaca* or *schistacea* by various authors. Interestingly, on 12 May 1971, a Fox Sparrow was collected at Fire Island, Suffolk County and identified as *altivagans* (Buckley 1973). A possible “Slate-colored” Fox Sparrow was reported in New York in December 2003, but the sighting was not accepted by the NYS Avian Records Committee (NYSARC 2006), which considered it unidentifiable to subspecies on the basis of the documentation. On 5 December 1996, a non-*iliaca* Fox Sparrow was seen in Storrs, Connecticut, and was either *unalaschensis* or *altivagans* (Szantyr 1997). Given these uncertainties, a closer examination of the Central Park bird seems warranted. A thorough analysis of this, and other northeastern North American records of western Fox Sparrows is in preparation.

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**HYBRID BLUE-WINGED TEAL X NORTHERN SHOVELER  
MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE,  
SENECA CO., NEW YORK, 9 MAY 2011**

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On the morning of 9 May 2011, we were returning to Ithaca from Rochester and decided to take a quick look at the birds along the Wildlife Drive at Montezuma NWR, Seneca County. We arrived at the visitor center and as we scanned the shallow pool with binoculars we found an odd looking duck with the Northern Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*). It appeared similar to the shovelers in shape and overall coloration, but slightly smaller with a slightly smaller bill (bill similar in shape to a Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*). The most distinctive aspect of the bird was a bold white facial crescent, which recalled a narrow version of that seen on a male Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). After looking in a scope, we could easily see other characters in common with Blue-winged Teal including brown spotted breast, spotting that continued onto the sides and flanks (which were rufous toned, unlike Blue-winged Teal). We quickly realized this was a hybrid male Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler, a rare hybrid combination which neither of us had seen before. We were able to obtain a series of fairly good photographs that demonstrate why we identified this as a hybrid Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler. Two photos, with detailed discussion of identification included in the captions, are presented as Figures 3 & 4 on pages 242-243 of this issue.

The bird also bears some similarity to Australian Shoveler (*Anas rhynchotis*) of Australia and New Zealand, but that species has a much larger bill, heavy markings across the breast, and blue-gray tones to the head.

The entire time we watched the bird, it remained with or near Northern Shovelers. It spent a lot of time actively displaying near a female or aggressively chasing or biting male Northern Shovelers.

**OTHER RECORDS OF THIS HYBRID COMBINATION**

We are aware of only one other hybrid Northern Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal reported from New York State, a bird photographed at Prospect Park, Kings County (Brooklyn) on 22 January 2010. Initially identified as an Australian Shoveler, photographs on the *City Birder* blog (Jett 2010) allow for confident identification as a hybrid:

<http://citybirder.blogspot.com/2010/01/strange-waterfowl.html>

One of these photographs is reproduced here as Figure 5, on page 243. As with the bird that we photographed, note that the Prospect Park bird has a green head and finer markings on the breast than one would expect in Australian Shoveler (Madge and Burn 1988).

Hybrids between Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler are rare in the wild, but this combination has been documented several other times from North America, mostly in the West. There are also several records of this hybrid combination from Europe (e.g., United Kingdom and Germany), some of which may be the result of wild vagrant Blue-winged Teal hybridizing with native Northern Shoveler. Vagrant Blue-winged Teal often appear with Northern Shoveler in Europe and it may be more likely for vagrants to hybridize in Europe than North America given the small number of prospective mates for Blue-winged Teal. For more information on occurrence outside New York, see references in McCarthy (2006).

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Shai Mitra for encouraging us to submit this short piece and for comments that improved it.



**NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
63RD ANNUAL MEETING  
SAVANNAH, NEW YORK, 23 OCTOBER 2010**

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA), co-hosted by the Montezuma Audubon Center and Onondaga Audubon Society, was held at the Montezuma Audubon Center, Savannah, NY on 23 October 2010. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed 35 delegates from 21 clubs were in attendance and that a quorum was present. John Confer made a motion to approve the 26 September 2009 Annual Meeting minutes as published in *The Kingbird* Vol. 59 No. 4. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**President's Report by Carena Pooth**

This is a summary of the President's Report. The full text is available upon request. NYSOA continues to be a strong organization and a leader among similar groups throughout the US. NYSOA owes its success and its fine reputation to a veritable army of people who have volunteered their services over the 62 years since its inception. I'd like to thank the board and all the committee chairs and committee members who have worked so hard over the past year to help NYSOA carry out its mission.

NYSOA continues to work hard to educate the public as well as government agencies and lawmakers in order to encourage responsible decision making on conservation matters. NYSOA's printed publications set a standard to which most other organizations can only aspire. Online media play an increasing role in our communications and education efforts. In January 2010, a searchable archive of 57 years of *The Kingbird* was launched on the NYSOA web site, free to the public.

NYSARC completed both the 2007 and 2008 reports and expects to publish the 2009 report very soon. This sets the stage for annual reports to be published in a timely manner going forward.

The two year old New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) conducted monthly field trips sponsored by Partner Clubs and awarded six scholarships to help fund young birders' attendance at birding camps, special birding trips, and educational programs.

NYSOA is working cooperatively with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to encourage the use of eBird for routine sightings while pushing for improved data extraction capabilities for club compilers as well as *Kingbird* editors.

A new Publicity and Marketing Committee was established in November 2009. The committee's mission is to raise awareness of NYSOA and to implement promotional programs and materials to increase membership.

### **Treasurer's Report by Andy Mason**

Andy provided the following documents for the year ending December 31, 2009: Balance Sheet, Statement of Fund Activity and Balances, and the Detailed Statement of General Operating Fund Activity. Andy also provided an itemized Funds Report and NYS Young Birders Club Fund through October 21, 2010. He thanked the previous Treasurer, Bill Reeves, for his assistance in compiling the 2009 financial statements. Andy pointed out that six *Kingbird* issues were printed in 2009, instead of the normal four issues. PayPal capability, for new/renewal online memberships, was added in the past year. For the first 3/4 of the year, PayPal memberships accounted for \$4,000 out of the \$26,000 total to date. Andy encouraged members to consider increasing their level of support when renewing their membership.

### **Audit Committee Report**

None.

### **Department of Environmental Conservation Report**

As always, the DEC was invited to attend and report at the Annual Meeting. Due to other obligations, the DEC Report was given first. Gordon Batcheller, Chief of the Bureau of Wildlife for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), discussed highlights of the 13-page DEC Report, which we will provide to any NYSOA member who requests it. The DEC has faced workforce reductions of 22% since 2008, with hundreds more job losses coming through retirement and layoffs at the end of 2010. Fish hatcheries may close and many programs are in jeopardy. The outlook for 2011 looks bleak. Gordon outlined some of the DEC priorities for 2011: The Endangered Species list will be updated. Incidental take permits for endangered species will only be issued if the habitat is benefitted in the process. The DEC will also focus on youth with a youth deer season, and they plan to lower the hunting age to 12. Gordon pointed out the common interests of hunters and birders, adding that hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses bring in millions of dollars for NYSDEC, with most of that revenue coming from deer hunters. Gordon commented on the lead ammunition issue and said the DEC is vigorously enforcing the law to use lead-free ammunition in waterfowl hunting. He also plans to give hunters non-toxic ammunition to try out and report on to the DEC. (A similar program was used successfully in Arizona.) Several NYSOA members brought up the Double-crested Cormorant control program and asked Gordon to re-evaluate the killing given the new data showing that this species is eating invasive fish. Another member brought up the State Forest Management Plan—praising the majority of the plan but raising serious concern about the section that would allow for Natural Gas hydrofracking in State Forests.

## **NYSOA Committee Reports and Elections**

Carena Pooth gave the Archives Report for Brenda Best. She reported that Brenda has transitioned everything she needs from Phyllis Jones, the former archivist.

Barbara Butler gave the Membership Report for Berna Lincoln. She provided a detailed Membership Report in a handout for members. There are currently 523 members plus 51 life members. There are 41 member clubs. (Last year, there were 525 members and 45 member clubs.)

Chita McKinney made a motion to approve Southern Adirondack Audubon as a new member club. Gerry Smith seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Kathy Schneider gave the Publicity Report. She reported that the committee printed a new postcard to publicize NYSOA. The primary goal of the committee is to increase both individual and club memberships. With the help of NYSOA member clubs, a field trip program will be re-instituted in 2011. A raffle fundraiser was held with prizes awarded at the Annual Meeting. A door prize for free membership was given to an attendee who was not already an individual member of NYSOA.

Andy Mason gave the Conservation Report. Andy provided a detailed summary of the prior year's activities in a handout for members. He summarized the conservation issues the committee has worked on, letters that were written, and articles provided for the conservation column in *New York Birders*. John Confer brought up the State Forest Management Plan—praising 234 pages of the plan to manage forests, but concerned by 10 pages that discussed natural gas development in State Forests. The process used, hydrofracking, is a huge threat to the environment—polluting aquifers, producing pollutants and acres of waste water, and the development of roads to transport millions of gallons of water used in the process. Natural gas development threatens wildlife and ecosystems. John encouraged people to send comments to the DEC asking that natural gas drilling not be allowed on State lands. Gerry Smith reported that Onondaga Audubon had already commented on this issue, and he encouraged members to also call Andrew Cuomo with comments.

Audubon NY is also working on this issue. Cayuga Bird Club also wrote comments, and they asked that NYSOA also send a letter. Bill Lee reported that hydrofracking in NYS will be regulated in May 2011.

Carena Pooth gave the New York State Young Birders Club (NYSYBC) Report. She reported that NYSYBC marked its second anniversary this fall. There are currently 22 youth members, 20 supporting adults, and 17 partner clubs. In addition to Carena, five adults are doing communications, administrative, publicity, and coordination work. More chaperones for field trips are needed throughout the state to attend one or two local trips each year; Carena asked that volunteers contact her. The students competed in the World Series of Birding as the "Razorbills" and did well raising money for the new Education Fund, which also benefited from contributions sent in by several NYSOA member clubs. A new scholarship program was established and a total of \$1870



was awarded to six young birders to help fund birding camps, pelagic trips, and other educational programs. Carena asked NYSOA member clubs who are not NYSYBC partners to join and show their support. Individuals can also join as Supporting Adult members.

Shai Mitra gave *The Kingbird* Report. The publication schedule is back on track. Shai asked members to please send him articles.

Tim Baird gave the *New York Birders* Report. Tim reminded members that the newsletter is the birders' publication. He would like contributions—poetry, prose, observations, etc. from members. The newsletter also highlights field trips from around the state and summarizes board meetings. Tim will soon be retiring from editing *New York Birders* and is actively looking for a replacement.

Gerry Smith reported that 15% of Onondaga Audubon members choose to receive an electronic version of their newsletter, and wondered if NYSOA had considered this option. He also mentioned that a Kingston, ON bird club sends an email announcement to members when their publication is ready for a download (no paper copies sent). Tim also reported that the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* was updated with the latest AOU and NYSARC changes. There are 476 species listed with notations for NYSARC species. The booklet is \$2 or you can purchase 10 booklets for \$15.

Carena Pooth gave the Website and Information Services Report. Carena implemented the searchable online archive of *The Kingbird*. The work included installation and configuration of the search engine needed to perform the indexing of the individual article files. The searchable data base went live in January 2010; it includes all articles published from 1950 through 2007. Four issues of *The Kingbird* will be added to the archive each year. In December 2009, Carena also implemented online purchase capability (using PayPal) for NYSOA and NYSYBC memberships (new/renew/gift) as well as checklist and decal purchases. Eighty-seven memberships (26 new) came through PayPal. PayPal charges 2.2% on each purchase plus a flat 30 cent charge per transaction. Carena also enabled Google Analytics which provides statistical analysis of website usage. During the past six months, 50% of traffic to the NYSOA website came from search engines and 20% came from links on other websites. 24% of page hits were for the NYSOA home page, 20% were for the NYSARC section, 4% were for the *Kingbird* archive, and 3% were for the Member Clubs page.

Bob Spahn gave the eBird Report. There was some discussion regarding the need for the separate NY eBird webpage and whether it was worth the trouble to update that page. Bob explained that the regional data published in *The Kingbird* are not in a database, whereas eBird serves as a database and could serve that function for NYSOA. Bob will encourage clubs to get members to enter their data in eBird first and then paste the eBird report of their sightings into postings to their local listserv rather than to just publish a note on the listserv without entering the data into eBird.

Gerry Smith recommended that clubs publish directions for their members on how to use eBird. Bob also told the group that there are various filters that flag records as "exceptional," giving the observer a chance to decide whether the

entry may be an error. Such records are then reviewed by a screener. In NY, the screener is often the local *Kingbird* Regional Editor. Questionable records are not added to the public database until they are validated by a screener, although they remain a part of the observer's database.

Shai Mitra gave the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) Report. The 2009 NYSARC Report will be in the December 2010 or March 2011 issue of *The Kingbird*. The 2008 Report is in the September 2010 issue. In the future, each December issue will contain the previous year's NYSARC report.

Jeremy Kirchman gave the Research Committee Report. Jeremy wrote an article clarifying the laws on salvaging dead birds, which will appear in the December 2010 issue of *The Kingbird*. The Ornithological Council is lobbying to have the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 amended to allow individuals to salvage dead birds and offer them to a person holding a salvage permit. Jeremy also reported that Ewald and Sherony's monograph on the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch is now available on the NYSOA website.

Gail Kirch gave the Awards Report. Gail reported that awards would be given out at the banquet. Four Lillian C. Stoner Awards were given this year. She reminded members that NYSOA offers Member Club grants of up to \$100 for special projects. This year, Bedford Audubon received \$75. This organization runs the Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch in Bedford, NY. In an effort to increase awareness and appreciation of raptors, they give free workshops on raptor identification. To further their goal, the requested money will be used to purchase copies of Paul Carrier's *A Guide for Hawks Seen in the Northeast* for distribution to workshop participants.

Bob Spahn gave the Bylaws Report. Proposals to change or update the bylaws will be discussed at the next board meeting. Some of the possible changes include term limits for Officers and changing the number of Directors.

Tim Baird gave the Nominating Committee Report. Tim reported that the committee used geographic considerations to make sure that Officers and Directors came from all parts of NYS. He also explained that the Officer positions are one-year terms and that the President and Vice-President have a term limit of two consecutive 1-year terms. Director position terms are two years and there is a term limit of two consecutive 2-year terms. Tim nominated the following 2010-2011 slate of Officers/Directors for election:

Carena Pooth – President  
Gail Kirch – Vice President  
Andy Mason – Treasurer  
Michael DeSha – Corresponding Secretary  
Joan Collins – Recording Secretary

Victor Lamoureux – Director (2012)  
Shai Mitra – Director (2012)  
Bob Spahn – Director (2012)

Kathy Schneider made a motion to have the Secretary cast a ballot to elect the slate of Officers and Directors. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Carena Pooth announced the following names for election to the 2010-2011 Auditing Committee: John Cairns, Irving Cantor, and Peter Capainolo. John Confer made a motion to elect the Auditing Committee. Gerry Smith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Carena Pooth announced the following names for election to the 2010-2011 Nominating Committee: Valerie Freer (Chair), Jerry Lazarczyk, and Berna Lincoln. Andy Mason made a motion to elect the Nominating Committee. Gail Kirch seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Carena Pooth announced that the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club will host the 2011 Annual Meeting. It will be held on 24 September 2011 in Dutchess County. She encouraged member clubs to plan ahead and volunteer now to host a future meeting.

Andy Mason led the discussion of the Lead Ammunition Resolution that he had presented for adoption. He gave some background on the problems with using lead ammunition. Two years ago, at a conference of the Peregrine Fund, it was shown that lead ammunition has a detrimental effect on birds and other wildlife. The NYS pathologist documented 300 cases of lead poisoning in birds (Common Loons, Bald Eagles, Osprey, etc.) over 20 years. These were cases where the bird was obtained by the DEC and autopsied, so it is only the tip of the iceberg. The NYSOA resolution was written to ask the DEC and state to take action. The EPA was going to act, but did not have jurisdiction in the states. NYSOA feels that the DEC should do more to educate people about alternatives to lead ammunition. After some discussion among members, the phrase "after a reasonable period of time" was removed from the last paragraph. Andy Mason made a motion to approve the Lead Ammunition Resolution as amended. Kathy Schneider seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Gerry Smith introduced a new resolution to call attention to the fact that staff loss at the DEC is impacting the ability of the department to get its job done and to condemn the firing of the DEC Commissioner. Gerry Smith moved to approve the resolution. Bard Prentiss seconded the motion. More discussion ensued with some who felt that the resolution should focus on budget issues only. Gerry withdrew the resolution as currently written.

Andy Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeremy Kirchman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 12:04 p.m.

## Awards

The following awards were given out during the Saturday evening banquet:

Lillian C. Stoner Award:

Hope Batcheller – nominated by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club and NYSYBC

Jacob Drucker – nominated by the Linnaean Society of NY

Carolyn Sedgwick – nominated by the Cayuga Bird Club

Benjamin Van Doren – nominated by the NYSYBC

John J. Elliott Award:

For the best *Kingbird* article of the year: Shai Mitra for “Regular inshore occurrence of non-breeding Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) during summer on Long Island, New York”, *The Kingbird*, Vol. 59, No. 1, March 2009.

Gordon M. Meade Distinguished Service Award:

The award goes to Tim Baird for his many years of outstanding dedication to NYSOA in serving as a Director, Vice-President, President, Corresponding Secretary, and Editor of New York Birders.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Collins

Recording Secretary



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SPRING 2011

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### THE WEATHER

Spring 2011 was exceptionally wet. April was particularly wet, with damaging floods reported over much of northern New York. Poor weather impeded landbird migration for extended periods, but a break in the weather toward the end of the April was accompanied by a huge push of migrants.

### WATERFOWL AND WATERBIRDS

When bird populations grow and their distributions expand, things change fast in the birding world. The rapidity with which our conventional wisdom can be revolutionized is illustrated superbly by this spring's waterfowl migration in New York State. "Richardson's" Cackling Goose was barely known among New York birders until a few pioneering students began working them out in the late 1990s; this spring about 100 were recorded across the state. Greater White-fronted Goose was barely accepted as a naturally occurring species in New York prior to the 1970s; this spring the state hosted groups of 12, seven, and four in Regions 9, 1, and 10. New York's first Ross's Goose wasn't found until 1983, and as recently as 1998 the total number known to have occurred statewide was about a dozen; this spring at least 20 were widely distributed across the state, and nine were tallied at one site near Pine Island, Region 9. Until just five years ago, all Barnacle Geese were considered suspect in New York, regardless of date, context, and appearance; now they are expected every year and have fallen awkwardly low on the list of worrisome/exciting species that trouble the sleep of New York's competitive year-listers. Amazingly, **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** also seems to be following these trajectories, at least in terms of accelerating occurrence, if not in terms of geographical origins. Region 9 scored all five of these species during spring 2011, due in great part to Rob Stone's efforts, beginning with the discovery of some of the arctic-breeding geese in early March and concluding almost three months later with a flock of five striking whistling-ducks. Mike Bochnik's Region 9 report is well worth close reading in this regard.

At least 17 Eurasian Wigeon were recorded, distributed across all Regions except 4 and 6, and at least five "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal were tallied in Regions 3 and 10. These robust totals may be related to the major incursions of

*The Kingbird* 2011 September; 61 (3)

these taxa that were detected in Atlantic Canada during the winter of 2010-11 (e.g., 40+ wigeon in Nova Scotia and 35 teal near St. John's, Newfoundland; *North American Birds* 65: 234). Predictably, careful observers also detected hybrids or intergrades of these taxa with their closest North American relatives, American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal. Less expected were reports of hybrids such as Snow Goose x Canada Goose (Regions 2 and 3), Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler (Region 3; see article this issue), Ring-necked Duck x scaup (Region 3), and **Tufted Duck** x scaup (Region 10).

An adult **White Ibis** that visited Staten Island from 25 April into May was on the vanguard of a major incursion that unfolded during the summer. Equally remarkable were no fewer than four **White-faced Ibises**,<sup>6</sup> all upstate, including the first ever for Region 2.

## RAPTORS

Eastern New York shared in this spring's northward push of Swallow-tailed Kites, with reports from Regions 8, 9, and 10. Mississippi Kites were recorded in Regions 2, 8, and 9. An exceptional total of five Swainson's Hawks was recorded this spring (Regions 2, 3, and 5), of which three occurred with a warm front along the Lake Ontario shore 27-28 April. This same front yielded New York's greatest single-day flight of Broad-winged Hawks on 27 April, with **39,417** passing Braddock Bay.

## SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS, AND ALCIDS

Four reports each of American Golden-Plover and "Western" Willet from upstate were more than usual for spring. Even more remarkable was a Piping Plover at Sandy Pond, *Oswego*, Region 5 from 10-21 May, which represented the first local record since 1984. Also unusual as to date and place was a Laughing Gull at Fair Haven, *Wayne*, Region 5 on 27 May.

Other rare gulls reported from the Great Lakes Plain this spring included **Slaty-back-backed**, **California**, and **Thayer's**. In this regard, the gull-watching exploits of Willie D'Anna, Jim Pawlicki, and Dave Tetlow deserve commendation. A count of 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Riga, *Monroe*, Region 2 on 22 Mar was notable for upstate New York and suggestive of how early adults of this rapidly increasing species pass northward in our region. Consistent with this observation, four well-watched winter-resident adults on Long Island departed 10-25 March. Another wave of Lesser Black-backs surged up the coast two months later, when as many as 15 immatures were recorded in southwestern *Suffolk*, Region 10 in mid May.

**Arctic Terns** were reported by careful observers at sea near Block Canyon 21 May and during a shore-based seawatch on Long Island 22 May. These reports are very credible, but I think it is worth emphasizing that photographic documentation is almost wholly lacking for these contexts in New York, and



that every effort should be made to photograph ocean-going migrants of this difficult to identify species.

Through repeated trips offshore and assiduous seawatching from eastern Long Island, Angus Wilson recorded five of New York's six regularly occurring alcids this spring. The missing species was Thick-billed Murre, which, despite historical periods of more regular occurrence, has proven frustratingly difficult to find in recent years—especially offshore.

## LANDBIRDS

Redpolls were abundant and widespread statewide. Among the many flocks, Hoary Redpolls were more widespread than ever, and careful attention to detail yielded a well-documented report of the nominate subspecies *hornemanni*, historically poorly known in the state, from Region 2. Similarly, keen observers discerned “Greater” Common Redpolls in Regions 2, 6, and 7. Both of these taxa breed in Greenland and were reported widely in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States this past winter; it is hoped that evidence documenting the New York reports will be sent to NYSARC, where it can be reviewed and archived.

As far as breeding landbirds were concerned, most of the news seemed to be bad for species garnering special concern in recent years, such as Northern Bobwhite, Chuck-will's-widow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, and Henslow's Sparrow. There were, of course, predictable exceptions to this trend. Clay-colored Sparrow was recorded in Regions 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and many of the southeastern-breeding Neotropicals made good showings.

A major wave of landbirds pushed through the state in association with a warm front 26-27 April. Even apart from this event, however, the trend toward earlier spring arrival dates couldn't be ignored this year. The accompanying date tables show, for instance, that each of 22 common and widespread warbler species arrived earlier than its 25-year average. The flipside of this precession was that migration appeared to many observers to have essentially ended by mid-May, formerly the time when the greatest flights were expected. In this regard, some very robust mid-May counts by Jay McGowan in the Ithaca, Region 3 area were heartening: 85 Tennessee and 17 Blackburnian Warblers must have been quite a pleasure to eyes and ears!

## BIRD OF THE SEASON

My choice for this spring's Bird of the Season is the group of nine Ross's Geese that visited Pine Island, *Orange*, Region 9 in early March. Not only was this one of the largest counts recorded to date in the state, but the group also included an example of the species' very rare dark morph (see photo, page 244). Furthermore, accompanying these birds were a Barnacle Goose, three “Richardson's” Cackling Geese, and 12 Greater White-fronted Geese! Finally,

all of these birds persisted long enough to allow many observers to study and enjoy them.

## SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2011

Region	Species Reported <sup>1</sup>	Seasonality <sup>2</sup> vs. 1987-11	Advance <sup>3</sup> (Days)	Record Early Spp.
1	91	-1.49	-1.67	10
2	93	-2.69	-3.93	4
3	90	-1.97	-2.83	5
4	84	-3.75	0.87	4
5	92	-3.06	-2.04	9
6	90	-4.13	4.12	12
7	90	0.03	9.28	1
8	88	-2.44	1.10	3
9	79	-0.56	-0.70	5
10	87	-1.50	-4.20	4

<sup>1</sup>Maximum number of species = 93.

<sup>2</sup>Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region's 25-year average.

<sup>3</sup>Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions.

Given difficulties in estimating arrivals of some species in some Regions, estimates of Seasonality and Advance should be interpreted with caution.



Spring Arrival Dates 2011 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	25-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	10 Apr	9 Apr	7 Apr	22 Apr	8 Apr	<b>23 Mar</b>	22 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr		12 Apr	15 Apr
Green Heron	16 Apr	19 Apr	16 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	25 Apr	8 Apr	11 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	1 Mar	18 Feb	2 Mar	12 Mar	<b>17 Feb</b>	10 Mar	3 Mar	4 Mar			1 Mar	12 Mar
Green-winged Teal	4 Mar	8 Mar	5 Mar	6 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar	19 Mar	11 Mar			11 Mar	17 Mar
Northern Pintail	1 Apr	18 Feb		5 Mar	<b>12 Feb</b>	19 Mar	14 Mar	15 Mar			8 Mar	7 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	14 Mar	21 Mar	16 Mar	19 Mar	<b>27 Feb</b>	5 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	27 Apr	6 Apr	29 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	22 Mar	28 Mar	30 Mar	5 Mar	19 Mar	<b>1 Apr</b>	30 Apr	30 Mar	20 Mar		27 Mar	28 Mar
Virginia Rail	21 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr	29 Apr	29 May	23 Apr	16 Apr	4 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr
Sora	6 Apr	10 Apr	4 May	1 May	22 Apr	4 May	29 May	15 Apr	14 May		28 Apr	29 Apr
Common Moorhen	18 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr	29 May	19 Apr	15 Apr	6 Apr	21 May	28 Apr		26 Apr	26 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	17 May	6 May	6 May		<b>18 Apr</b>	24 May	29 May	19 May	22 May		13 May	14 May
Semipalmated Plover	<b>1 May</b>	15 May	<b>23 Apr</b>	16 May	8 May	<b>11 May</b>	12 May	12 May	13 May	10 Apr	6 May	10 May
Killdeer		5 Mar	6 Mar	1 Mar	21 Feb	<b>17 Feb</b>	16 Mar	5 Mar		5 Apr	6 Mar	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	19 Mar	17 Mar	15 Mar	4 Apr	19 Mar	7 Apr	27 Apr	6 Apr	27 Mar	<b>13 Mar</b>	27 Mar	6 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	10 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	23 Apr	25 Mar	6 May	24 Apr	<b>5 Apr</b>	8 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	24 Apr	<b>3 Apr</b>	10 Apr	23 Apr	14 Apr	22 Apr	13 May	27 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	12 Apr	20 Apr	7 Apr	10 Apr	26 Apr	7 May	27 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr
Sanderling	<b>13 May</b>	23 May					29 May				21 May	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	26 May	23 May	1 May	5 May	17 May	27 May	14 May		15 May	29 Apr	14 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	1 May	11 Apr	4 May	3 May	6 May	11 May	12 May		3 May	29 Apr	2 May	4 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	6 Apr	4 Apr	13 Apr		17 May		28 May			13 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	21 Mar	15 Mar	20 Mar	2 Apr	8 Apr	30 Mar	24 Apr	3 Mar	5 Apr		28 Mar	24 Mar
American Woodcock	6 Mar	3 Mar	5 Mar	12 Mar	12 Mar	15 Mar	20 Mar	5 Mar	27 Feb		8 Mar	11 Mar
Caspian Tern	4 Apr	3 Apr	4 Apr		10 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	7 May	<b>5 Apr</b>	26 Apr	17 Apr	12 Apr	19 Apr
Common Tern	<b>4 Apr</b>	11 Apr	25 Apr		21 Apr	23 Apr	3 May	21 May	2 May	20 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr
Black Tern	24 Apr	8 May	5 May		3 May	7 May	29 May	14 May	4 May	5 May	7 May	8 May
Marsh Wren	22 Apr	23 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	5 May	4 May		22 Apr	26 Apr	9 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr
Dates in <b>bold</b> type are record early arrivals for the Region.												

	Spring Arrival Dates					Landbirds							
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	25-Yr. Ave	
Black-billed Cuckoo	14 May	13 May	12 May	13 May	9 May	17 May	30 May	8 May	7 May	29 Apr	12 May	11 May	
Common Nighthawk	2 May	12 May	18 May	21 May	14 May	9 May	20 May	20 May	24 Apr	10 May	12 May	12 May	
Chimney Swift	25 Apr	23 Apr	19 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	7 May	27 Apr	21 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	30 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	1 May	6 May	3 May	26 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4 Apr	5 Apr	6 Apr	4 Apr	26 Mar	9 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr		24 Apr	6 Apr	3 Apr	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	18 May	22 May	18 May		22 May	21 May	13 May	22 May	7 May	3 May	16 May	18 May	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	11 May	7 May	10 May	9 May	12 May	8 May	10 May	10 May	12 May	3 May	9 May	9 May	
Alder Flycatcher	14 May	19 May	11 May	15 May	13 May	18 May	20 May		3 May		14 May	17 May	
Willow Flycatcher	9 May	10 May	7 May	12 May	12 May	14 May	29 May	11 May	1 May	10 May	11 May	15 May	
Least Flycatcher	26 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	5 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	7 May	1 May	24 Apr	20 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	
Eastern Phoebe	20 Mar	9 Mar	18 Mar	26 Mar	15 Mar	26 Mar	8 Apr	10 Mar	7 Mar	10 Mar	18 Mar	21 Mar	
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	26 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	3 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	8 May	27 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	
Eastern Kingbird	26 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	12 May	24 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	
Purple Martin	10 Apr	4 Apr	5 Apr	23 May	1 Apr	24 Apr	29 May	24 May	27 Apr	9 Apr	24 Apr	18 Apr	
Tree Swallow	18 Mar	17 Mar	13 Mar	31 Mar	16 Mar	3 Apr	6 Apr	13 Mar	4 Mar		20 Mar	20 Mar	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	9 Apr	10 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr		19 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr	
Bank Swallow	20 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr	26 Apr	11 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	17 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr	
Cliff Swallow	27 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	3 May	26 Apr	27 Apr	7 May	24 May	19 Apr	7 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	
Barn Swallow	5 Apr	4 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	30 Mar	7 Apr	9 Apr	7 Apr	5 Apr	5 Apr	5 Apr	10 Apr	
House Wren	25 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	23 Apr	22 Apr	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4 Apr	8 Apr	2 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	15 Apr	27 Apr	8 Apr		5 Apr	9 Apr	6 Apr	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23 Apr	9 Apr	14 Apr	29 Apr	12 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	11 Apr	10 Apr	5 Apr	16 Apr	20 Apr	
Eastern Bluebird		8 Mar		18 Mar	22 Feb	26 Mar	4 Apr				16 Mar	9 Mar	
Veery	2 May	26 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	8 May	2 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	
Swainson's Thrush	5 May	8 May	4 May	15 May	11 May	20 May	18 May	4 May	4 May	25 Apr	8 May	8 May	
Hermit Thrush	8 Apr	9 Apr	2 Apr	13 Apr	5 Apr	24 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr		3 Apr	10 Apr	7 Apr	
Wood Thrush	27 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	7 May	26 Apr	19 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	
Gray Catbird	26 Apr	9 Apr	5 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	26 Apr		26 Mar	19 Apr	25 Apr	
Brown Thrasher	10 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr	5 Apr	14 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr	7 Apr	18 Mar	11 Apr	15 Apr	
Blue-headed Vireo	10 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	23 Apr	7 Apr	13 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	
Yellow-throated Vireo	30 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	1 May		27 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	
Warbling Vireo	27 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	26 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	27 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	
Red-eyed Vireo	1 May	29 Apr	7 May	25 Apr	9 May	11 May	13 May	27 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	3 May	
	Dates in <b>bold</b> type are record early arrivals for the Region												



Spring Arrival Dates 2011 Landbirds (cont'd)												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	25-Yr. Ave
Tennessee Warbler	6 May	7 May	8 May	3 May	10 May	7 May	1 May	15 May	4 May	3 May	6 May	8 May
Nashville Warbler	26 Apr	27 Apr	<b>20 Apr</b>	30 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr
Northern Parula	27 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	26 Apr	7 May	7 May	<b>26 Apr</b>	22 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	2 May
Yellow Warbler	24 Apr	<b>17 Apr</b>	20 Apr	26 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	30 Apr	30 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	26 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	<b>27 Apr</b>	7 May	26 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	2 May
Magnolia Warbler	27 Apr	30 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	6 May	10 May	1 May	6 May	24 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	4 May
Cape May Warbler	1 May	27 Apr	<b>27 Apr</b>	<b>28 Apr</b>	11 May	<b>29 Apr</b>	7 May	11 May	3 May	1 May	2 May	7 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	<b>27 Apr</b>	<b>26 Apr</b>	26 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	11 Apr	22 Apr	20 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	21 Apr	25 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	26 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	<b>25 Apr</b>	2 May	27 Apr	2 May	<b>22 Apr</b>	27 Apr	25 Apr	<b>24 Apr</b>	26 Apr	3 May
Pine Warbler	4 Apr	9 Apr	2 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	12 Apr	24 Apr	16 Apr	17 Mar	18 Mar	5 Apr	10 Apr
Palm Warbler	24 Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr		19 Apr	11 Apr	4 Apr	3 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	8 May	9 May	5 May	12 May	<b>29 Apr</b>	12 May	18 May	12 May	<b>27 Apr</b>	29 Apr	7 May	10 May
Blackpoll Warbler	10 May	7 May	10 May	13 May	11 May	14 May	13 May	8 May	3 May	28 Apr	8 May	12 May
Black-and-White Warbler	26 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr
American Redstart	<b>27 Apr</b>	1 May	26 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May	10 May	27 Apr	<b>20 Apr</b>	21 Apr	28 Apr	2 May
Ovenbird	26 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	<b>26 Apr</b>	<b>27 Apr</b>	28 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	26 Apr	24 Apr	23 Apr	2 May	24 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	11 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr
Mourning Warbler	12 May	7 May	7 May	7 May	<b>2 May</b>	19 May	18 May	15 May	<b>3 May</b>	13 May	10 May	14 May
Common Yellowthroat	27 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	<b>27 Apr</b>	30 Apr	30 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	<b>2 May</b>	11 May	7 May	13 May	10 May	19 May	18 May	12 May	<b>30 Apr</b>	2 May	9 May	11 May
Canada Warbler	7 May	10 May	7 May	4 May	11 May	12 May	11 May	7 May	<b>20 Apr</b>	29 Apr	5 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	<b>27 Apr</b>	26 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	<b>30 Apr</b>	<b>1 May</b>	18 May	26 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr	28 Apr	4 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	26 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr
Indigo Bunting	27 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	<b>25 Apr</b>	5 May	13 May	12 May	28 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	27 Apr	3 May
Eastern Towhee	18 Mar	9 Apr	13 Mar	19 Apr	9 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	20 Mar		<b>6 Mar</b>	31 Mar	10 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	1 Apr	11 Apr	26 Apr	6 Apr	7 Apr	9 Apr	20 Mar	20 Mar	5 Apr	31 Mar	4 Apr	5 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	10 Apr	27 Mar	15 Apr		9 Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr	23 Apr	4 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr	11 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	3 Apr	24 Mar	9 Apr	13 Apr	7 Apr	15 Apr	5 Apr	20 Apr			8 Apr	7 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	26 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr		10 May	10 May	9 May	4 May	27 Apr	3 May	2 May	4 May
White-crowned Sparrow	11 Apr	12 Apr	5 May	15 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	5 Apr	22 Apr			19 Apr	24 Apr
Bobolink	29 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	30 Apr	7 May	30 Apr	3 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	2 May
Baltimore Oriole	27 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	2 May	22 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr
Overall Average	19 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	22 Apr	20 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr
Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region												

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

**Mike Morgante**

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The weather in March was an extension of the colder than usual winter months, and it was the coldest March in eight years. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 31.9° F, 2.4° below average. There was 4.63" of precipitation, 1.64" above average, much of which fell in rainfalls on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Snowfall was 13.3", 0.9" above average. Buffalo Harbor remained filled with ice through March and wasn't clear of ice until 19 April. The April weather that followed was the third wettest in 141 years. The mean temperature was 45.7° F, 0.4° above average, and featured a cold first week while reaching the 80s during the fourth week. A strong push of songbirds, including numerous early arrivals, occurred 26-28 April during the warm stretch that often featured southerly winds. Precipitation was 5.69", 2.65" above average, and snowfall was 1.0", 2.6" below normal. Winds gusted above 60 mph on the 28<sup>th</sup> bringing widespread tree damage, especially in Niagara County where gusts exceeded 80 mph! The wet and gloomy weather continued in May. The average temperature was 58.7° F, 1.7° above normal. It was the wettest May and spring season on record. Rainfall was 8.09", 4.54" below normal. The frequent rain was a likely factor in the good numbers of migrant songbirds observed in May.

There seemed to be a typical spring Canada Goose migration, with the peak during mid-March. Tundra Swan migration was evident during the first two weeks of March. Snow Geese were more plentiful than usual, especially following a few days with easterly winds. The maximum Snow Goose count was 238 at Alabama on 13 March. A **Ross's Goose** was observed by many in early March at Dunkirk Harbor. Three reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese**, with a maximum of seven, is becoming the new normal. **Cackling Geese** were again reported in some higher numbers, with a maximum of 37 at Hartland on 12 March. Rounding out the less common goose species was a lone Brant much earlier than usual on **2-3 April**.

Typical of recent springs, there were several **Eurasian Wigeons** reported, with most sightings in the vicinity of Iroquois NWR. There was also at least one **Eurasian x American Wigeon** hybrid there. Willie D'Anna had an impressive count of 2,050 Northern Pintails at a large field in Hartland on 11 March. New bike/walking trails along the Buffalo Outer Harbor have provided easier access to view waterfowl. Jim Pawlicki found three **King Eiders** there on 17 March among a few thousand diving ducks. Many birders were able to find them, although often not present, through at least 27 April. Willie D'Anna found another at Wilson Harbor on 21 April. Two **Harlequin Ducks** at Dunkirk Harbor delighted birders through 12 March, while one in the Niagara River gorge was present 12-20 May, later than usual. There were fewer scoters reported on Lake Ontario than usual. However, all three species were reported from Batavia WWTP this spring, where irregular inland. Red-necked Grebes



were scarce, with only a few reported. An **Eared Grebe** continued from winter at Dunkirk Harbor and another was found on Lake Ontario in mid-April.

Three **Snowy Egrets** were found, with the third earliest on record found at Tift Nature Preserve by Chris Newton on 11 April and two at Tonawanda WMA on 26 April. A **Cattle Egret** in Hartland was a nice find on 30 May. The rarest wader of the season was an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** found among Black-crowns at Tift Nature Preserve by Alec Humann on 26 April.

Four reports (five total birds) of **Black Vulture** continue the upswing of sightings in recent years. Broad-winged Hawk migrants peaked during the unseasonably warm weather 26-27 April. Willie D'Anna found a rare **Swainson's Hawk** among broad-wings over Wilson on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The other rare raptor for the season was a **dark morph Red-tailed Hawk** in Gaines originally found by Dave Tetlow on 1 April which was later observed by several birders.

**Sandhill Cranes** were well reported even away from the hawkwatches. **King Rail** was heard but not seen on at least two occasions along Feeder Road on Tonawanda WMA in May. This was the same location where reported last year.

Shorebirds were conspicuously scarce in the third week of May, when they are often most prevalent. The top shorebird locations this spring were the mucklands in Elba and Kumph Marsh at Iroquois NWR, but even they were hit or miss. Kurt Fox had good numbers of shorebirds at Elba in late April and early May, including two, separate **Wilson's Phalaropes**. Other uncommon species sightings included two **Purple Sandpipers** and a flock of **Whimbrels** off Niagara Falls SP. **Upland Sandpipers** were reported from two recent breeding locations.

Two **Black-headed Gulls**, with a large group of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara River in Buffalo, were a nice find by Jim Pawlicki on 22 April. One at Dunkirk Harbor in early March was observed by many birders. Pawlicki carefully counted 48 Little Gulls on the Niagara River at Lewiston on 16 March, 46 of which he noted were adults. A **Slaty-backed Gull** was found by Willie D'Anna in Porter on 16 March. Chris Newton found one on 22 March in Wilson that was likely the same bird. It is possible that these sightings are from the same bird observed at Lewiston Reservoir in February.

**Long-eared Owl** calls heard at Iroquois NWR multiple times in May were likely from a breeder, while one sighted at Tift Nature Preserve 1 May could have been a late migrant. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** found at Tift on 13 May is more questionable as a late migrant and perhaps was a local breeder. There were several **Short-eared Owls** throughout the Region in March and April. One in Shelby through at least 22 May was more indicative of a possible breeder. There was only one double digit report of **Common Nighthawks**, with Marty Sanden counting 22 on 26 May. The only **Eastern Whip-poor-will** report was from Fort Niagara SP on 19 May.

Migrant songbirds were especially plentiful through much of May at classic migrant spots like Tift Nature Preserve, Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, and parks along Lake Ontario. Birders were also happy to report many migrants inland as well. There were only two Golden-winged Warbler reports,

oddly no “Brewster’s” Warbler reports, and one “**Lawrence’s” Warbler**, found by Art Buddington on 5 May at Tift Nature Preserve. A migrant **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found by Jim Pawlicki at Point Gratiot on 17 Apr, while one at Allegany SP in May was at a recent breeding location. Migrant **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Amherst SP 30 Apr and Carlton 1 May plus 1-2 at the recent breeding location at Tonawanda WMA. Four **Yellow-breasted Chats** were more than in recent springs and included one long-staying bird at Wilson-Tuscarora SP.

**Common Redpolls** were widespread until the first week of April, and there were some lingering reports until 3 May. **Hoary Redpolls** were documented from four locations, with multiple sightings at each location. While it was an excellent ‘winter’ season for redpolls, the increase in Hoary reports is likely influenced by birder effort in sorting through the Common Redpolls and advances in identification. Pine Siskins were present in low numbers and usually not lingering long in any one location. There was one report of Evening Grosbeaks in Allegany County, where they occur most frequently in the Region.

The B.O.S. April Count was held on 10 April. Light easterly winds gave way to gusty southwest winds associated with a warm front during the afternoon. A total of 147 species were tallied over the entire Region 1 and the portion of the B.O.S. Study Area in Ontario. There were seven record high counts since the 1935 inception including: Mute Swan (37), Eurasian Wigeon (2), Turkey Vulture (4607), Cooper’s Hawk (73), Golden Eagle (2), Glaucous Gull (6), and Northern Cardinal (1197), plus the first ever occurrence of **Bohemian Waxwing**.

The full report for the B.O.S. May Count on 15 May was not received in time for inclusion in this report.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count 10 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count 15 May; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL –

Chautauqua L, CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; DLSP – Darien Lakes SP, GENE; FMCS – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; MI – Motor 1 NR, ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds NS, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Somerset NIAG 26 Mar (WD); max 7 Barre ORLE 29, 30 Mar (JM, JP, RS); Carlton ORLE 1 Apr (DT).  
**Snow Goose:** arr 24 DH 3 Mar (TM); 30 Alexander GENE 7 Mar; 125 Hartland NIAG 11 Mar (WD); max 283 Alabama GENE 13 Mar (JM, JP); 61 Hamburg HW 14 Mar; 57 Porter NIAG 15 Mar; 46 Clymer CHAU 25 Mar; BOSAC; BESP 4, 20 Apr; last Somerset NIAG 18 May (WD); better showing than most springs.  
**ROSS'S GOOSE (R1):** DH 3 Mar (JP! photo), in company with Canada Geese.  
**Brant:** Albion ORLE 2 Apr (JP, WD), very early, in company with Canada Geese.  
**Cackling Goose:** arr 2 DH 3 Mar; TWMA 4 Mar; 6, 9 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 11, 27 Mar; max 37, 18 Hartland NIAG 12, 20 Mar; 6 INWR 22 Mar; 7 Carlton ORLE 1 Apr; 4 Gaines ORLE 2 Apr; 4 Yates ORLE 4 Apr.  
**Mute Swan:** 2 Grand I NR 7 Mar; 2 WTSP 8, 26 Mar; 37 BOSAC; BeSP 22, 24 Apr; 3 Youngstown NR 6 May; GHSP 29 May; only reports.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** several sightings Elba GENE, OOWMA, late Apr, early May (KF, CN).  
**Tundra Swan:** arr 7 Tonawanda ERIE 1 Mar; 306 BeSP 3 Mar; max 588 Hamburg HW 4 Mar; 200 Tift NP 15 Mar; 162 BWWT 19 Mar; last Kiantone CHAU 30 Apr.  
**Wood Duck:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 Mar; max 62, 85 Batavia GENE 27, 29 Mar (KF).  
**Gadwall:** arr 3 TWMA 10 Mar; max 22 OOWMA 7 Apr; 10 BWWT 20 May.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** Alexander GENE 25 Mar (ED); OOWMA 29 Mar – 7 Apr (JM, mob); TWMA 6 Apr, 7 May (JM, JP, KF); INWR 15 Apr (GR, CH); Elba GENE 29 Apr (KF); annual in spring in recent years.  
**EURASIAN X AM. WIGEON:** TWMA 6, 10 Apr (JM, JP, DG); showing features of both species.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr 6 Wilson NIAG 1 Mar; 144 Oakfield GENE 20 Mar; max 655, 662 OOWMA 30 Mar, 7 Apr (WW).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 2 Alexander GENE 14 Mar; max 16 INWR 19 Apr; 5 Tift NP 4 May.  
**N. Shoveler:** arr 3 Wilson NIAG 4 Mar; max 89 INWR 22 Mar.  
**N. Pintail:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 Mar; 100 DH 3 Mar; max 2050 Hartland NIAG 11 Mar (WD); 223 INWR 7 Apr; 168 Elba GENE 29 Apr; Hartland NIAG 30 May.  
**Green-winged Teal:** arr 3 BeSP 4 Mar; 330 INWR 30 Mar; max 417, 325 Elba GENE 29 Apr, 1 May (KF).  
**Canvasback:** arr Clymer CHAU 12 Mar; 4, 17 BWWT 13, 19 Mar; last 7 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 30 Apr.  
**Redhead:** arr 21, 144 BWWT 9, 19 Mar; max 400, 300 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 20, 27 Mar; Hartland NIAG 26 May.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 30 BWWT 9 Mar; 290 DH 24 Mar; max 646 BWWT 27 Mar; 240, 240 INWR 14, 19 Apr.  
**Greater Scaup:** arr 2 ChauL 12 Mar; max 3400, 2000 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 17, 27 Mar; 2 NF 20 May.  
**Lesser Scaup:** arr, max 4, 206 BWWT 9, 27 Mar; 200 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 3 Apr.  
**King Eider:** 3 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 17 Mar – 27 Apr (JP, mob), not always present but seen by many; Wilson NIAG 21 Apr (WD).  
**Harlequin Duck:** 2 DH 1-12 Mar (JeL, JG, mob); NF 12-20 May (MM), late.  
**Surf Scoter:** 2, 1 PB 1, 27 Mar; FNSP 15 Mar; BWWT 6, 16, 22 Apr; 2 Wilson NIAG 24 Apr; only reports.  
**White-winged Scoter:** ChauL 22 Apr (JB); BWWT 30 Apr, 20-22 May (KF), uncommon inland.  
**Black Scoter:** DH 3 Mar; Youngstown NR 11 Mar; 2 PB 15 Mar; 2 BWWT 27 Mar-9 Apr (KF, mob), rare inland; only reports.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 11 Celeron ChauL, 2 BWWT 13 Mar; Alexander GENE 18 Mar; last 2 FNSP 25 May.

**Bufflehead:** arr Newstead ERIE 10 Mar; 55 INWR 18 Mar; max 222 BWWT 30 Apr. last 10 BOSMC.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr ChauL 12 Mar; last NF 12-20 May.

**Hooded Merganser:** arr 6 Newstead ERIE 10 Mar; max 109, 103 BWWT 27 Mar, 2 Apr.

**Com. Merganser:** 129 BWWT 14 Mar; max 240 NF 26 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 2 BWWT 20 Mar.

**Ruddy Duck:** arr BWWT 14 Mar; max 292, 367 BWWT 9, 30 Apr.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr 8 FNSP 22 Mar; ChauL 26, 31 Mar, 1 Apr (JB); PB 27 Mar; max 73 Wilson NIAG 24 Apr.

**Com. Loon:** arr GHSP 17 Mar; max 203 Somerset NIAG to PB 14 Apr.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr PB 15 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** arr Jamestown CHAU 1 Mar; 4 BuSP 6 Mar; 55 BWWT 19 Mar (JP); max 73 FNSP 22 Mar; 20 INWR 19 Apr; 17 Dayton CATT 24 Apr; 2 BOSMC; last BWWT 22 May (KF).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 3 Shadigee ORLE 13 Mar; 4 Somerset NIAG 20 Mar; 2 Wilson NIAG 24 Apr; BWWT 30 Apr; only reports.

**EARED GREBE (R1):** DH 1-14 Mar.

continued from winter; Yates ORLE 14 Apr (JP).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 90, 728 DH 1 Mar, 17 Apr; arr 26 BuSP 26 Mar; 2 ChauL 27 Mar; max 1060 MI 24 Apr.

**Am. Bittern:** arr 2 BOSAC; 1, 2 Tift NP 11 Apr, 4 May; INWR 21, 24 Apr; BWWT 30 Apr (KF); 3 TWMA 7 May.

**Least Bittern:** arr 2, 2 Tift NP 7, 22 May (JM, MM); TWMA, INWR 20 May; only reports.

**Great Blue Heron:** 125 MI 3 Mar (WW); 114 + 86 n MI 12 Apr (WW).

**Great Egret:** arr MI 20 Mar (DG, WW); 110 + 56 n MI 24 Apr; BWWT 10 May; LBSP 19 May; INWR 20 May.

**SNOWY EGRET (R1):** Tift NP 11 Apr (CN), third earliest ever; 2, 1 TWMA 26, 30 Apr (BE, JeL, JP).

**Cattle Egret:** Hartland NIAG 30 May (WD!).

**Green Heron:** arr Tift NP 16 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 106 Strawberry 1 NR 8 Apr (WW).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** ad Tift NP 26 Apr (AH!); rare, only 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg Apr report.

**Black Vulture:** Buffalo Harbor ERIE 20 Mar (BC, DD); Wilson NIAG 9 Apr (WD); Hamburg

HW 27 Apr (JiL, WW); 2 NF 5 May (WD); increasing.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 1843, 2224 Ripley HW 8, 9 Apr.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr ChauL 22 Mar (JB); 22 Hamburg HW 9 Apr; pair nesting on platform at Tift NP.

**Bald Eagle:** too numerous to report all nesting locations; 10 INWR 24 Mar (JP); 8 imm, 1 ad Allegheny Res CATT 26 Mar (TB); 34 BOSAC; 10 Hamburg HW 26 Apr; max 17 Wilson & Porter NIAG 27 Apr (WD, BP).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 84, 417 Ripley HW 9, 10 Apr; 240 Hamburg HW 26 Apr.

**N. Goshawk:** Wilson NIAG 2, 17 Apr (WD, PY); Alden ERIE 27 Apr (JM); only reports away from hawkwatches.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr 3 Orchard Park ERIE 8 Mar; max 206, 74 Ripley HW 17, 18 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Ripley HW 9 Apr; max 5854 Ripley HW, 2250 Hamburg HW 26 Apr; 2250 Wilson NIAG 27 Apr (WD).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** Wilson NIAG 27 Apr (WD! NYSARC), rare.

**Red-tailed Hawk (DARK MORPH):** Gaines ORLE 1-3 Apr (DT, WD, JP), very rare.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 17 Ripley HW 17 Mar; max 23 Hamburg HW 9 Apr; last BOSMC.

**Golden Eagle:** arr Tift NP 15 Mar (CN); Hamburg HW 9 Apr (JP); 2 ORLE BOSAC; Shadigee ORLE 23 Apr (WD); 2 Wilson NIAG 27 Apr (WD).

**Merlin:** 12 reports away from hawk watches; 6 BOSAC; pair Salamanca CATT 25 Apr (TB); last WTSP 20 May.

**Peregrine Falcon:** arr Somerset NIAG 5 Mar; 3 Tift NP 15 Mar; 3 Ripley HW 26 Apr; numerous reports from nesting locations and elsewhere.

**KING RAIL:** TWMA 13, 22 May (KF), heard only; not documented.

**Virginia Rail:** arr INWR 21 Apr.

**Sora:** arr Conewango CATT 6 Apr (PM), slightly early; Porter NIAG 27 Apr; 3 Tift NP 8 May; Kiantone CHAU 7 May; 2 BWWT 20 May; Alexander GENE 26, 30 May.

**Com. Moorhen:** arr INWR 18 Apr; dead Derby ERIE 20 Apr.

**Am. Coot:** arr ChauL 12 Mar; max 69 INWR 5 May.

**Sandhill Crane:** arr Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 13 Mar (RS); migrants reported from eight other locations away from hawk watches.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 2 Wilson NIAG 17, 20 May (DM), only report.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 1 Elba GENE 1 May; ties Reg record early; 7 Elba GENE 11 May; max 11 Hartland NIAG 19 May.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr Bethany GENE 12 Apr.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 2 Kiantone CHAU 24 Apr; max 9 Elba GENE 1 May; last Lancaster ERIE 24 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr ChauL 19 Mar (JB); 35 INWR 18 Apr; max 38, 30 Elba GENE 27 Apr, 7 May.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 9 BOSAC; max 138, 137, 125 Elba GENE 27 Apr, 1, 7 May (KF).

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 1, 3 Tillman Rd. WMA ERIE 6, 30 May (BC, PY); Colden ERIE 12 May (JiL); only reports.

**Whimbrel:** 15 NFSP 24 May (JB), distant view, likely correct ID.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr NFSP 20 May (MM); 2 BWWT 27 May (GL).

**Sanderling:** arr PB 13 May (KF), Reg record early, only report.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr Hartland NIAG 26 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Carroll CHAU 1 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** no reports.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr INWR 6 Apr; max 24 INWR 14 Apr.

**Purple Sandpiper:** 2, 1 NFSP 12, 25 May (MM, PY), traditional location for spring reports.

**Dunlin:** arr 5 BOSAC; 17, 24 Elba GENE 30 Apr, 1 May; max 25 INWR 7 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 23 Hartland NIAG 18 May (WD), only report.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Portland CHAU 21 Mar; max 30 Pomfret CHAU 25 Mar (TM).

**Am. Woodcock:** arr Alden 6 Mar.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1, 1 Elba GENE 1, 7 May (KF), different birds.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 6 ChauL 20 Mar; Bethany GENE 4 Apr; 5 Shelby ORLE 11 Apr; max 5500, 3000 Buffalo NR 15, 30 Apr (JP, PH); 16 BWWT 16 Apr; 12 Dayton CATT 24 Apr; 40 FNSP, 40 WTSP 25 May (PY).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL (R1):** DH 1-4 Mar (JP); 2 Buffalo NR 22 Apr (JP! mob), on the late side.

**Little Gull:** 3 DH 1-7 Mar; max 48 Lewiston NR 16 Mar (JP), 46 of these ad; BeSP 15 Apr; 3 Buffalo NR 22 Apr; Tonawanda NR 28 Apr.

**Iceland Gull:** max 5, 5 Porter NIAG 16, 20 Mar; last DH 25 Apr.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** INWR 19 Mar (JP), unusual inland; ad Hamburg HW 21 Mar (WW, JP); max 5 DH 28 Apr.

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** Porter NIAG 16 Mar (WD!, BP, NYSARC); Wilson NIAG 22 Mar (JP! NYSARC); same bird suspected, also possibly same bird seen in Feb.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 6 Lewiston Res NIAG 20 Mar; last Hamburg ERIE 22 Apr.

**Caspian Tern:** arr FNSP 4 Apr; 100 DH 12 Apr; max 220 Wilson NIAG 1 May (CM); 128 PB 1 May.

**Black Tern:** arr 12 INWR 26 Apr; 1, 1, 1 BWWT 30 Apr, 20, 26 May; Lewiston NR 1 May; max 47 INWR 5 May (WW).

**Com. Tern:** arr Lewiston NR 4 Apr (JP), Reg record early; 1, 1, 3 BWWT 9 Apr, 26, 27 May; 2 Dayton CATT 24 Apr; 101 Wilson NIAG 1 May; max 350 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 4 May (WW).

**Forster's Tern:** arr BWWT 9, 10 Apr (JH, DB, KF); Buffalo NR 11 Apr (JP); 1, 1 BWWT 3, 26 May (CN, JM).

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Hinsdale CATT, Watts Flats WMA CHAU 14 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Tift NP 14 May.

**Long-eared Owl:** NIAG BOSAC; Tift NP 1 May (CN); INWR 13, 22 May (KF); BOSMC; rarely reported beyond Apr.

**Short-eared Owl:** BWWT 9 Mar (KF); Oakfield GENE 13 Mar; 1, 1 Tift NP 15 Mar, 26 Apr; BOSAC; LBSP 17 Apr; Shelby ORLE 21 Apr-22 May (CM, KF), date suggestive of breeding.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** WTSP 3-22 Mar (BP); 2 WTSP 4, 5 Apr (BP); Tift NP 13 May (J&KL); only reports.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 1, 1, 1 Alfred ALLE 2, 6, 22 May (RP); Buffalo ERIE 13, 30 May; 7 LBSP 19 May; Tonawanda ERIE 22, 28 May; 4 Portland CHAU 22 May; PG 27 May; max 22 Dunkirk CHAU 26 May (MS); NF 29 May.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** FNSP 19 May (LL), only report.

**Chimney Swift:** arr Hamburg HW 25 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Orchard Park ERIE 30 Apr.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** ALLE BOSAC; Colden ERIE 30 Apr – 4 May; reported from seven known or likely breeding locations in May.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Alfred ALLE 29 Mar (EB), rare in higher terrain of ALLE.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr 2 Williamsville ERIE, 3 BeSP 4 Apr.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Buffalo ERIE 18 May (RS); SPNS 19 May (LH); WTSP 22 May (WD, BP).

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Tift NP 11 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Buffalo ERIE 22 May; max 12 Wilson & Porter NIAG 27 May (WD, BP), impressive count; five other reports in late May.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr INWR 19 May; Carroll CHAU 30 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Watts Flats WMA CHAU 14 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Carroll CHAU 9 May, ties Reg record early.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Tift NP 26 Apr.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr Randolph CATT 20 Mar.  
**Gr. Crested Flycatcher:** arr Tift NP 26 Apr.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr Tift NP, 2 Eden ERIE, 5 TWMA 26 Apr.  
**N. Shrike:** six reports in Mar; last Carlton ORLE 1 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr OOWMA 30 Apr.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr SPNS BOSAC 10 Apr, ties Reg record early.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr multiple locations 27 Apr.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Buffalo ERIE 12 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 May.  
**Com. Raven:** 3 Glenwood ERIE 22 Mar; N Java WYOM 27 Mar; Tonawanda NR 30 Mar, 21, 22 Apr (JP); 2 Hamburg HW 9 Apr (JP); DLSP 21 Apr (JM); 3 E. Concord ERIE 22 Apr; Basom GENE 3 May (CM); Eden ERIE 4 May; Sardinia ERIE 20 May; only reports outside ALLE, CATT, CHAU besides BOS counts: cont to incr.  
**Purple Martin:** arr 12 BOSAC.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr 2 INWR 18 Mar; 900 Elba GENE 26 Apr (KF); max 1125 BWTP 4 May (KF), cold, windy day.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr TWMA 9 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr Tift NP 20 Apr; max 225 BWTP 4 May (KF).  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Alexander GENE, Buffalo Harbor ERIE 27 Apr.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr 2 Alexander GENE 5 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr Bethany GENE, Tonawanda ERIE 25 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** arr 3 Tift NP 7 Apr.  
**SEDGE WREN (R1):** arr INWR 22 May (KF).  
**Marsh Wren:** arr Tift NP 22 Apr (JM, JP); AmSP 27 Apr (RS).  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 10 Williamsville ERIE 4 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Williamsville ERIE 4 Apr.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 2 Tift NP 23 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr BeSP 2 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Buffalo ERIE 12 May; BOSMC; three other reports.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Bethany GENE, Buffalo ERIE 5 May; max 12 Tift NP 22 May (MM).  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr Buffalo ERIE 8 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr BeSP, INWR 27 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** SPNS 12 Mar; Tift NP 15 Mar; arr multiple locations 26 Apr.  
**N. Mockingbird:** S. Buffalo ERIE 8 Mar; 1, 2 Alexander GENE 30 Mar, 27 Apr; Hamburg HW 25 Apr; Grand I ERIE 10 May; less common in these areas.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr 2 BOSAC.  
**BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R1):** Bethany GENE BOSAC 10 Apr (DB!), very late, with group of Cedars; latest spring record for Reg.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 3 Batavia, Alexander GENE 8 Mar; last Wilson NIAG 20 May.

## LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 2 Alabama GENE 3 Mar; 20 Oakfield GENE 19 Mar; 30 Shelby ORLE 24 Mar (JM, JP); max 40 Carlton ORLE 1 Apr (DT); 24 Tillman Road WMA 3 Apr; last 12 Shelby ORLE 20 Apr.  
**Snow Bunting:** 80 Alabama GENE 3 Mar; 40 BeSP 6 Mar; 150 Bethany GENE 7 Mar; max 1100 Hartland NIAG 11 Mar (BP, WD).  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 2 Alden ERIE, 2 Lewiston NIAG 27 Apr (NY, NS).  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Buffalo ERIE 12 May (PY, RS); Wilson NIAG 27 May (BP, WD); only reports.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** no reports.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** Tift NP 5, 7 May (AB, CN, CHo), rare.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 6 May; max 17 Buffalo ERIE 19 May (RS).  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Tift NP 6 May (DS); 1, 1 Buffalo ERIE 8, 19 May; FNSP 11 May; 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 13, 16 May; 2 FMCS 14 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr TWMA, Alden ERIE 26 Apr.  
**N. Parula:** arr Tift NP 27 Apr; max 8 Wilson NIAG 14 May (BP, WD); seemingly more common in migration this year.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr 2 SPNS, Sandusky CATT 24 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr BeSP 30 Apr.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Tift NP 27 Apr.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 May; max 4 Wilson NIAG 14 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Tift NP 27 Apr (MG, GR, DS). Reg record early.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Alexander GENE 16 Mar; arr 15 BOSAC.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Williamsville ERIE 11 Apr (RS!), early; Tift NP 21 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 26 Apr (BP), slightly early.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R1):**

PG 17 Apr (JP); AISP 10 May (TB), recent breeding location.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Colden ERIE 4 Apr (CN); max 9 Tift NP 16 Apr (RS).

**Prairie Warbler:** arr Buffalo ERIE 7 May (DG); Carroll CHAU 29 May, breeder.

**Palm Warbler:** arr 2 AmSP, Sandusky CATT 24 Apr; last Tift NP 22 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Tift NP 8 May; max 20 Wilson & Porter NIAG 22 May (BP, WD).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Tift NP 10 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr BeSP 5 May; Sherman CHAU 7 May; 3 AISP 28 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr multiple locations 26 Apr.

**Am. Redstart:** arr BeSP 27 Apr (JP), ties Reg record early.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr AmSP 30 Apr (GR!); Carlton ORLE 1 May (KF); TWMA 7, 20 May, regular breeding location.

**Ovenbird:** arr multiple locations 26 Apr.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr 2 Tift NP, INWR 26 Apr.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Tift NP 11 Apr (KF), rare in migration.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Tift NP 12 May.

**C. Yellowthroat:** arr Eden, Alden ERIE 27 Apr.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr Colden ERIE 26 Apr.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Tift NP 2 May (CN). Reg record early; max 20 Wilson & Porter NIAG 27 May (WD, BP).

**Canada Warbler:** arr 5 Watts Flats WMA CHAU 7 May (JB); max 15.

Wilson & Porter NIAG 27 May (WD, BP).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr Alden ERIE 9-15 May (CW); INWR 13, 22, 29 May (KF, JeL);

WTSP 14-31 May (BP, WD, mob); Clymer CHAU 20 May (ST); increase over recent springs.

**TOWHEES – WEAVERS**

**E. Towhee:** arr Alden ERIE 18 Mar (NY).

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** 6 Alexander GENE 28 Apr; last GHSP BOSMC (HS).

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr 2 Belfast ALLE 1 Apr.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** no reports.

**Field Sparrow:** arr Pomfret CHAU 23 Mar; 4 Belfast ALLE 2 Apr.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 6 BOSAC; Shelby ORLE 24 Apr; BuSP 30 Apr; 2 Carlton ORLE 1 May; 2 BOSMC.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Barre ORLE 3 Apr.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Times Beach NP ERIE 30 Apr (MM), rarely sighted in migration; 2, 4 Tillman Rd WMA ERIE 12, 30 May (NY,

PY); 2 Middlebury WYOM 14 May; Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 14 May; DLSP 20 May; 2 Artpark NIAG 20 May; Conewango CATT 28 May; 2 Pomfret CHAU 29 May; more reports than usual.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Ashford CATT 7 Mar; max 17, 15 Tift NP 11, 20 Apr (WW, RS); last Clymer CHAU 7 May.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 26 Apr (AH); max 5 Buffalo ERIE 12 May; 4 Tift NP 22 May; last WTSP, FMCS 27 May.

**Swamp Sparrow:** BWWT 13 Mar; 2 INWR 20 Mar; either wintering or early spring arrivals.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 91 Tift NP 1 May (RS).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 11 Apr; max 46 Tift NP 11 May.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Tift NP 27 Apr, ties Reg record early.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr multiple locations 26 Apr.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Wilson NIAG 27 Apr (WD, BP), slightly early.

**Bobolink:** arr DLSP 29 Apr; 4 Knox Farm SP ERIE 30 Apr.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr Hamburg HW, Randolph CATT 12 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 Portland CHAU 6 Mar; 50 Barre ORLE 24 Mar; 19 Poland CHAU 27 Mar; 35 Alabama GENE 29 Mar; est 3500 INWR. 2500 TWMA 26 Apr (KF), near dusk; last 8 BOSMC.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr Knox Farm SP ERIE 30 Apr (CC); 1, 4 Portland CHAU 1, 17 May (CHa); BeSP 6 May; LBSP 7 May; Buffalo ERIE 8-12 May; Wilson NIAG 15, 19 May; Ransomville NIAG 20 May.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr 3 Colden ERIE, Alden ERIE 27 Apr.

**Purple Finch:** slightly lower than normal numbers.

**Com. Redpoll:** 50, 60 Youngstown NIAG 5 Mar, 5 Apr; 70, 50 Orchard Park ERIE 19 Mar, 2 Apr; 70, 1 Wilson NIAG 19 Mar, 1 May; Grand I ERIE 1 May; last Alfred ALLE 3 May; well reported through first week of Apr.

**HOARY REDPOLL (R1):** 1f, 2m Wilson NIAG 11, 17 Mar (WD, BP); Colden ERIE 11 Mar (CN); 1, 1, 1 Youngstown NIAG 14, 16, 20 Mar (LL, TY); 1, 1 Orchard Park ERIE 26, 31 Mar (MM); more documented reports than usual. **Pine Siskin:** 25 FNSP 4 Mar; max 60 Wilson NIAG 6 May; present in low numbers Mar through mid-May.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 18 ALLE BOSAC; 8 ALLE BOSMC, only reports.



## REGION 2 – GENESEE

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Weather is often a major influence in determining the picture of a season, especially a migration season like spring. This year the weather factor was particularly strong and obvious, though much of the impact was due to weather far removed from our Region and even our State. For much of April and May, a mass of storms set up over the south-central portion of the country—from Texas to the Carolinas and the Gulf Coast states to above the Ohio Valley. Severe storms and heavy rains essentially blocked the path for trans-gulf and Central American migrants moving toward the Northeast. Brief breaks in this pattern sent strong fronts sweeping rapidly northeast, producing a few bursts of sometimes strange mixes of regular migrants plus some interesting rarities. But for much of the time the migration season was SLOW and THIN.

Focusing on the local weather, March was changeable as usual, but still largely a continuation of winter. Most statistics were average, but the ground remained snow-covered and most of the bays and ponds were mostly frozen for much of the month. Temperatures averaged 33.8° F, 0.1° below normal, precipitation totaled 2.67", 0.09" above normal, and 15.1" of snow fell, bringing the total for the winter to 127.0". Sunshine was well above normal at 54%, but persistent northerly winds most of the month meant little migration, especially for hawks. Early April brought some sign of a warm up and the beginning of migration, but then the second half turned very wet, with rain on 10 of the last 15 days. The highlight was a weather break on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, with strong winds bringing the best ever single day hawk flight to Braddock Bay, plus a burst of migrants and rarities. The temperature for the month averaged 46.4°, 1.1° above normal, and precipitation totaled 5.81", 3.06" above normal, a record high for the month. Rain and clouds continued to rule the picture through May. Temperatures see-sawed, and after nine dry days from the 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> which brought in migrants, the next nine days were wet. Hot, humid days and storms ensued, followed by a nice Memorial Day weekend. Temperatures averaged 58.8°, 1.8° above normal, and precipitation totaled 4.80", 1.98" above normal, capping the second wettest spring on record here.

Moving on to the groups of migrants we follow in spring, first a look at the waterbirds. Typical of recent years, waterfowl moved in relatively early and moved through quickly. Ice cover on the lakeshore ponds and bays limited the build-up of numbers to well below expectations. Few birds lingered there even into April. The only high counts near or on Lake Ontario were of some of the divers, namely, scaup, scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser—and even these were low. Among the puddle ducks, all of the high counts were from the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex, mainly in March. Along the lakeshore, monitoring of the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach SP



was irregular, and there were very few days with any significant movements noted. Even Canada Goose numbers in fields near the lakeshore were low. The numbers of Snow Geese in this Region near the Montezuma NWR were unusually poor, probably due to ice on the ponds and snow cover during the time of their peak passage. In contrast, Dave Tetlow tallied over 30,000 Snow Geese in the Genesee Valley southwest of Rochester on 11 March, a record count for that area. Historically the bulk of the Snow Goose movement through the Region is to the east of Rochester. Among the rarer waterfowl were a Greater White-fronted Goose, three Ross's Geese, 2-3 Eurasian Wigeons, Harlequin Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye. Noting some trends, we find 33+ Cackling Geese over all three months; Trumpeter Swan breeding in Wayne County, with a maximum of 21 in Savannah; and Mute Swan all over near the Lake Ontario shore ponds.

Among the other waterbirds, after low numbers this winter, we had a late 1 March arrival date for Common Loon and low maxima for both loons. Reasonable, but not really high, peak counts were noted for Horned and Red-necked Grebes on 8 April, and an **Eared Grebe** was found at Hamlin Beach SP on 7 May. Two American White Pelicans visited the Braddock Bay area on 11-12 April, then two were seen in Savannah on 5 May—the same birds? 1290 Double-crested Cormorants passing Hamlin Beach on 7 April was the best high count, and an adult **Great Cormorant** flyby near Braddock Bay seen by Brad Carlson was a real surprise. The warm pulse in late April pushed in a **Tricolored Heron** and a Snowy Egret. Then on 18-20 May the Region's first **White-faced Ibis** was found and photographed by Bruce Cady and subsequently by many others in the High Acres Landfill mitigation area in Perinton. Finally, on 30 May a **Cattle Egret** dropped in near the Braddock Bay hawkwatch platform. Interestingly, there were several other Western NY sightings of Cattle Egret at this time.

This year the official Braddock Bay Hawkwatch counter was Luke Tiller, with prior experience at the Greenwich, CT fall watch. By mid April he must have wondered why he came. March was generally cold and rainy or snowy, with winds wrong even well into April. 9-11 April finally brought a burst of hawks, peaking at 8870 on 11 April, but then it was back to more rain. Then, 27 April brought the biggest single day count at Braddock Bay, with 42,235 birds; 39,417 of these were Broad-winged Hawks. May reverted back to poor winds and rain, with no 1000-bird days until 21 May, but 23 May brought another 11,350 Broadwings, an adult **Mississippi Kite** passed on 28 May, 94 Bald Eagles were tallied on 29 May, and the season ended with the second highest all-time count at 107,219. Maybe Luke will be back! To put things into perspective, even with this high total, only the 24,619 Turkey Vultures and 413 Bald Eagles were record high species totals and only the one-day Bald Eagle and Broad-winged Hawk counts were records. All other record highs are found well in the past. Other raptors of note include 11 Black Vultures through the season and a single Swainson's Hawk at the watch, but another nearby the next day. Luke also paid attention to the other birds in the area as hawk numbers allowed.

Rail reporting is always iffy. **King Rail** is a rarity in the Region and Beechwoods SP (the old Camp Beechwoods Girl Scout camp and Maxwell Creek area west of Sodus Point in Wayne County) was a surprise location for one found by Doug Daniels. Many Sandhill Cranes passed, with a peak of 13 on the record early arrival date of 17 March, also arriving at the Carnecross Road breeding area in Savannah on that same date. Over the season, there were at least 72 Sandhill Cranes tallied in the Region.

The shorebird picture this season was crazy and hard to assess. The bottom line was terrible numbers, but essentially all expected species and several rarities were reported. High lake levels limited the lakeshore habitat and eliminated several places on creeks, ponds, and bays that often would normally have mudflats. The rains provided many areas with puddles in the farm fields, but some have now been tilled or can be pumped out to drain quickly. In other cases, during prime shorebird migration time, flooded fields in our Region were visited but simply held few or no birds. The late season period, when birds are often found at Ontario Beach or on the nearby piers at the mouth of the Genesee River, or seen passing the lakewatch, was not productive. The piers and beaches at the outlet of Sodus Bay to Lake Ontario were only slightly better. In spite of the negatives on habitats and numbers, early shorebirds were found at normal dates and Solitary Sandpiper arrived record early. Am. Golden-Plover, relatively rare in spring, was found in April and May. "Western" Willet, **Marbled Godwit**, three reports of Sanderling, and two White-rumped Sandpipers all were reported in May, and Wilson's Phalarope in late April. Yet there were no reports of good numbers of Semipalmated Sandpiper after a very late 23 May arrival and there were few reports of Short-billed Dowitcher.

Gull and tern reports were also on the low end this season. The best location for interesting gulls was in the area around a large landfill in the Town of Riga in western Monroe County and into nearby Genesee County. Dave Tetlow surveyed these birds most actively and turned up **California Gull** on 24 March, Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull in March and May, Thayer's Gull in March and April, and a maximum of 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 22 March. In addition, the saga of rooftop-nesting Ring-billed Gulls in Batavia opened a new chapter, with their return reported by Kurt Fox on 19 March. Efforts continue to discourage the colony. Tern arrival dates were on the early average end, except for Black Tern. In all cases there were no really good counts other than 128 Caspian Terns at Point Breeze.

Among the non-passerine landbirds, we start with Eurasian Collared-Dove in March and May at the usual Parma and Hamlin sites, but with only singles reported on scattered dates. There were only two sightings of Snowy Owl reported, on 5 and 30 March, both at Braddock Bay. There were good numbers of No. Saw-whet Owl over an extended period in the usual area on the west side of Manitou Beach Road, but few Long-eared Owls. Jim Adams recorded the GPS coordinates of all locations he was aware of and has prepared a map and summary report. Among the woodpeckers, the continuing highlight was the **Lewis's Woodpecker** in the Town of Richmond, Ontario County. It continued through 9 April and in the last month or so was more widely publicized and so

was seen by many more observers. The big push on 27 April brought the Region's fifth **Chuck-will's Widow** and four Whip-poor-wills found by Dave Tetlow in the hawk banding area west of Manitou Beach Road. Whip-poor-will continued in the area at least through May. Dave also had an excellent peak count of 112 Common Nighthawks there on 23 May.

The passerine picture was another wild and messy one. Clearly, reduced numbers for many species have led to patchy or spotty migration in recent years. This year this trend was enhanced by weather effects. We do have some tools for trying to analyze the information or at least to try to make sense of observations. These include the daily banding numbers from Braddock Bay Bird Observatory's (BBBO) Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; a Migration Stopover Project with sets of point counts in progress; 25 years of Spring Arrival Dates tabulated for 66 landbird species (plus 27 waterbirds); and now thousands of eBird records. Using these, we find the best banding days—27 April and 13-14 and 22-28 May—correspond with some of the best periods generally for good numbers and rarer records. The weather-related backups of migrants to the south and subsequent bursts of migration corresponded closely with many arrivals and records of rarer birds during several discrete periods: 23 and 27-30 April and 7, 22-23, and 25-30 May. In early May there were several days on which observers commented on the great numbers of migrants. However, this typically involved big numbers of one or a few species and was spotty; if you were in the right woodlot at the right time, GREAT, but miss that time by minutes or miss the place and you'd be asking, WHERE ARE THE BIRDS? As an example, I personally experienced this on 24 May when I heard 20+ Blackpoll Warblers singing in every tree all along Edgemere Drive, then turned inland to see how many there were in the woods near the hawkwatch, but within 0.2 miles heard no song. Heading back toward the lake and turning into the Braddock Bay marina (0.2 mile off the lakeshore), within 100 yards Blackpoll song was everywhere and a walk on the East Spit produced many more. A strange feature in early May was the simultaneous arrival or presence of big numbers of some species at normal dates, but with normally much later migrants mixed in, e.g., Willow Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, and Mourning Warbler at very early dates.

To many, spring arrivals seemed early. It takes a look at the date tables and maybe some study to put this into perspective. First, the overall average arrival this spring was only 0.06 of a day later than last year, when the foliage, crops, etc. were weeks ahead of this year. Next, the big push from the southwest over 26-28 April was accompanied by a large number of arrivals and record early dates for Blue-winged Warbler, "Brewster's" Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler and ties of early records for Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. Of the 66 landbirds in the Spring Arrival Date table, 49 were at dates earlier than the average over the 25 years we have been keeping the table, but only one species was statistically significantly early ( $>2$  standard deviations). Also of interest, looking at the later-than-average birds, seven had average dates after 6 May (and only Willow Flycatcher was early among all the set of birds normally arriving later than that date) and six had normal average arrival dates

in the 1-4 April period. The exceptions were House Wren with 12 April and Swainson's Thrush with 4 May as normal arrival dates, and Eastern Bluebird, for which overwintering individuals make choosing the "arrival" date problematic.

Scanning the passerine families, we find five Olive-sided Flycatcher records, a good number for recent years, but many of the other flycatchers noted in low average numbers, especially the later arrivals. A couple of White-eyed Vireos, one banded, in late May is typical, though often they appear earlier. The Fish Crows of winter along the Genesee River continued to be reported, mostly in the same corridor, in numbers up to ten through the season. Clearly, breeding is suspected and hopefully will be confirmed. Peak counts for all of the swallow species in the Region were dismally low this spring. Counts of migrant Blue Jay and American Crow never reached their usual highs. Among the thrushes, banding totals for Veery and Gray-cheeked Thrush (including Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's) were particularly low and no Bicknell's was banded. Swainson's and Hermit Thrush banding totals were at least decent. The peak count for Am. Robin at 30,000 was very high but well below the record high of 86,600 of 1 April 2008.

Among the warblers, 34 species were reported this spring, with 22 of these plus "Brewster's" hybrid arriving in April. The flood of migrants in late April, when the weather broke, brought two reports of Worm-eating Warbler, and in May rarer species were added with three reports of Prothonotary Warbler and two of Connecticut Warbler. In the case of Prothonotary Warbler, 2-3 birds moved into the Armitage Road area on the Wayne/Seneca County line border between Regions 2 and 3. This is an area where they have nested successfully in the past but not for several years. Looking to other species of special interest, five Golden-winged Warblers were reported in April and May; at least 19 Orange-crowned Warblers were reported in May, six of these banded; and two Yellow-breasted Chats were reported late in May. Species commented upon as especially numerous at times included Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's Warbler. On the lower than expected side were Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Palm, and Bay-breasted Warblers, and Ovenbird.

There was little of note among the sparrows. Peak counts for most of the migrants were low and arrival and departure dates typical. Highlights were five Clay-colored Sparrow reports and a maximum count of 15 Grasshopper Sparrows in the Nations Road area between Avon and Geneseo. Additional rarities included a female Summer Tanager on 13 May and a flyby Dickcissel on 20 May. Blackbird counts were decent but not particularly noteworthy, other than 1840, 4365, and 1760 Rusty Blackbirds tallied by Dave Tetlow on the West Spit of Braddock Bay on 11, 27, and 28 April, respectively. Both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles appeared with the rush in late April and continued in good numbers. Finch highlights included a good count of 416 Purple Finch passing Braddock Bay on 11 April; a White-winged Crossbill on 7 May; holdover records of redpolls including 1 "Greater" on 9 March; a maximum of 375 Common on 10 March; 13+ Hoary in March, with a maximum of six on 10

March, and single Hoary on 4 and 10 April; and single Evening Grosbeaks on 11 March and 10 April and two on 1 May.

Species counts for the season were 139 vs. a 10-year average of 132.8 for March, 217 vs. 185.6 for April, and 243 vs. 228.7 for May. The strange weather certainly appears to have aided in sending a diverse array of birds to this Region.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Adams, BBBO (Elizabeth Brooks), Janet Baker, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim & Liz Barry, Mitchell Barry, Hope Batcheller, John Bateman, Bob Beal, Steven Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Amanda Burns, Bruce & Mary Ann Cady (BCd), Doug Cameron, Brad Carlson (BCI), Grace Carswell, Nancy Casper, Gary Chapin, Jill Church, Kelly Close, Don Cowley, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Peter Debes, Steve Donohue, Mike Flaherty, Daena Ford, Kurt Fox, Kenny Frisch, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Jeff Gerbracht, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Tim Guenther, Judy & Lew Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Jennalee Holzschuh, Rick Humes, IBA Monitoring, Carolyn Jacobs, Fred & Ellie Jordan, Amy Kahn, Ryan Kayhart, Jim Kimball, Mike Klimeczko, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Brian Kuebel, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tim Lenz, Joan Lindberg, Bill Maier, Jim Maley, Carol Manring, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Robert & Chita McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Randi & Nic Minetor, Ann Mitchell, Joseph Mitchell, Frank Morehouse, Sheile Mumpton, Ann Nash, Dave Nutter, Sue O'Neill, Joseph Osiovitch, Joel Paige, Pat Parslow, Jim Pawlicki, Judy Peets, Tim Phillips, Norma Platt, Tom & Nancy Poeth, Jay Powell, Dave Prill, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Mike Riley, Tom Riley, Wade Rowley, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Joe Slattery, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Al & Di Stout, Kimberly Sucy, Steve Taylor, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow (DT), Mike & Joann Tetlow, Luke Tiller, Don & Donna Traver, Mike Wasilco, Bill Watson, Bridget Watts, Dale Wesley, Dave Wheeler, Julie White, Kinsley Whittum, Chris Wiley, Brenda Williamson, Chris Wood, Martha Zettel.

## ABBREVIATIONS

b – indicates banded this season, usually at BBBO's Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CB – Chimney Bluffs, WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HA – High Acres Trails, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; NR – Nations Road, T Avon, LIVI; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SP – Sodus

Point, WAYN; TC – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

### Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Totals

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max Date</u>	<u>Total</u>
Black Vulture	15 Mar	2	19 Mar	8
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar	5230	11 Apr	<b>24,619</b>
Osprey	28 Mar	60	27 Apr	180
Bald Eagle	11 Mar	<b>94</b>	29 May	<b>413</b>
No. Harrier	1 Mar	145	11 Apr	777
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 Mar	1530	27 Apr	7949
Cooper's Hawk	3 Mar	64	11 Apr	487
No. Goshawk	15 Mar	14	11 Apr	33
Red-shouldered Hawk	15 Mar	178	17 Mar	385
Broad-winged Hawk	11 Apr	<b>39,417</b>	27 Apr	67,895
Swainson's Hawk	28 Apr	1	28 Apr	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1 Mar	1124	11 Apr	3568
Rough-legged Hawk	1 Mar	71	11 Apr	328
Golden Eagle	11 Mar	7	17 Mar	37
Am. Kestrel	4 Mar	138	7 Apr	470
Merlin	15 Mar	16	11 Apr	51
Peregrine Falcon	4 Apr	3	11 Apr	15
Mississippi Kite	28 May	1	28 May	1

**Total including unidentified raptors: 107,219**

### Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Records

<u>Species</u>	<u>Early Date</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max Date</u>	<u>High Total</u>
Black Vulture	3/13/91	3	5/26/10	11 (2010)
Turkey Vulture	---	5834	4/8/01	24,619 (2011)
Osprey	3/19	110	5/9/88	511 (1990)
Bald Eagle	---	94	5/29/11	413 (2011)
No. Harrier	---	440	4/16/96	3177 (1996)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	---	5130	4/26/96	19,429 (1996)
Cooper's Hawk	---	283	4/19/96	1474 (1987)
No. Goshawk	---	42	4/4/83	141 (1883)
Red-shouldered Hawk	1 Mar	1414	3/26/88	3258 (1988)
Broad-winged Hawk	19 Mar	39,417	4/27/11	93,788 (1996)
Swainson's Hawk	>41 records			
Red-tailed Hawk	---	628	3/26/88	11,412 (1986)
Rough-legged Hawk	---	189	3/14/97	55 (2007)
Am. Kestrel	---	1166	4/14/83	1889 (1988)

Merlin --- 32  
 Peregrine Falcon --- —  
 Mississippi Kite 21 prior records

5/10/96 115 (1996)  
 45 (2004)

**Total:**

**144,008 (1996)**

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** 1 H 22 Mar (DT), only report.

**Snow Goose:** max 30,000 Genesee River Valley 11 Mar (DT); 8500 S 9 Mar; last 1 S 30 Apr.

**Ross's Goose:** arr T W Sparta, LIVI 8 Mar (DT); T Wheatland, MONR 11 Mar (DT); 1 near Lyons, WAYN 26 Mar (LL), ph.

**Brant:** arr 1 TC 25-30 Mar (MW), only report.

**Cackling Goose:** total 33+ for season; max 7 BB 13 Mar (mob); last 1 G 1 May (CWo).

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 21 Carncross Rd, S 19 Apr (mob); breeding sev loc WAYN.

**Tundra Swan:** max 720 T Groveland, LIVI 15 Mar (JK).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1 m BB 18, 24 Mar (AT, mob); 1-2 m S 14-25 Mar (DWh, mob); 1 m S 1-10 Apr (mob).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 1500 Marten Tract, S 25 Mar (JMcG).

**Am. Black Duck:** max 1150 Carncross Rd, S 12 Mar (JMcG).

**Mallard:** max 4000 Carncross Rd, S 10 Mar (IBA).

**N. Shoveler:** arr 3 BB 9 Mar; last 1 HB 24 May.

**N. Pintail:** max 5,000 Carncross Rd, S 10 Mar (IBA); last 1 K 22 May.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 400 Carncross Rd, S 30 Mar (HB).

**Canvasback:** last 1 BB 28 May.

**Redhead:** last 2 HB 23 May (DT).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 1200 S 25 Mar (JMcG).

**Greater Scaup:** max 670 BB-West Spit 3 Mar; last 2 BB 21 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 330 off G 18 Mar, low; last 2 BB 28 May.

**Harlequin Duck:** 1 HB 20 Apr (DT).

**Surf Scoter:** last 2 HB 7 May.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 230 HB 1 Mar, low.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 870 off Ontario Beach 12 May (JeB, CWo).

**Bufflehead:** last 2 HB 21 May.

**Com. Goldeneye:** last 2 HB 7 May.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1 m BB - West Spit 2 Mar (LT).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 5000 WL 8 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** last 1 Cranberry Pond 15 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** last 1 HB 22 May.

**Com. Loon:** arr 1 HB 1 Mar, late; max 486 HB 20 Apr.

**Horned Grebe:** max 293 M - H 8 Apr (RS).

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 2 HB 1 Mar; max 616 M - H 8 Apr (RS, DT); last 1 HB 4 May.

**EARED GREBE:** 1 HB 7 May (JeB, CWo, AGu).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1290 7 May (JeB, CWo, AGu).

**GREAT CORMORANT:** 1 ad M 5 May (BCI).

**AM WHITE PELICAN:** 2 BB 11-12 Apr (mob); 2 S 5 May (WR), same birds?

**Least Bittern:** arr 1 BB & S 30 Apr, early.

**Great Egret:** arr 1 Salmon Crk, G 3-4 Apr.

**SNOWY EGRET:** Salmon Crk, G 29 Apr (DT).

**TRICOLORED HERON:** BB - West Spit 27 Apr (DT)

**CATTLE EGRET:** BB 30 May (LT, *et al.*)

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 3 M 10 Apr.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** 1 High Acres Trails, Perinton 18-20 May (BCd, ph, mob), ph by many, 1st Reg record.

**Black Vulture:** total 8 passing hawkwatch 15 Mar thru; 1 Webster 4 Mar (M&JT); 1

Irondequoit 8 Mar (M&JT); 1 Burger P, G 22 Mar (KG); 1 M 7 May (RK), good total.

**Turkey Vulture:** see hawkwatch table.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 2 Avon 8 Apr (JB, mob), at nest.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 1 ad Frisbee Hill, G 28 May (LT, *et al.*).

**Bald Eagle:** max 94 BB 29 May, record high single day count (LT, *et al.*).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr 2 T Wolcott 4 Mar (DT).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 70 BB 11 Apr (LT, *et al.*); max 39,417 BB 27 Apr, record high single day count; 11,350 BB 23 May, good count.

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** 1 Hogan Pt, G 27 Apr (DT); 1 BB 28 Apr (LT, *et al.*).

**Golden Eagle:** arr 1 T Wolcott 4 Mar (DT), Reg record early; last 1 ad BB 24 May (RS), late.

**Merlin:** pr nesting Genesee 21 Mar thru (JK, mob).

**KING RAIL:** Beechwoods SP, WAYN 20 Apr (DD).



**Sandhill Crane:** arr and max 13 BB 17 Mar (LT, *et al.*), Reg record early; arr 2 Carncross Rd. S 17 Mar (sev), also Reg record early; 2 T Richmond 19 Mar (DWe), likely breeding area; total 72+ reports for the season at several sites.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 Carncross Rd. S 21, 23 Apr (DN, JMcG), early; 1 M 23 May (DT).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 HA 3 Apr (JP), Reg record early; HA 6 Apr (BCd), same bird.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 K 17 Mar (DT), early; max 250 Carncross Rd, S 23 Apr (JMcG).  
**“Western” Willet:** 1 HB 8 May (JeB, CWo), photos.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 100 S Apr.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** no reports.  
**Whimbrel:** arr Ontario Beach, Charlotte 22, 23 May; 8 HB 27 May (DT).  
**MARBLED GODWIT:** H 20 May (AGu, mob), photos.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 1 Ontario Beach, Charlotte 18 May (KF).  
**Sanderling:** arr SP 23-24 May (DD, DW); Ontario Beach, Charlotte 28 May (JO); 2 SP 31 May (LL); rare in spring.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr HB 23 May, late arrival and scarce.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 HB 27 May (DT).  
**Dunlin:** arr 7 Geneseo 16 Apr (JK); max 70 HB 27 May (DT).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 Geneseo Airfield (JK) & HB (DT) 18 May, only reports.  
**Wilson’s Snipe:** max 14HS 22 Apr, low.  
**Wilson’s Phalarope:** arr near Cuylerville 30 Apr (JK).  
**Bonaparte’s Gull:** arr 1 H 18 Mar, late.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** back at rooftop nesting colony Batavia 19 Mar (KFo).  
**CALIFORNIA GULL:** 1 T Riga 24 Mar (DT).  
**HERRING X LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1 T Riga 25, 29 Mar (DT).  
**THAYER’S GULL:** 1 imm T Leroy 5 Mar (DT); 1 imm T Riga 22, 25 Apr (DT, KFr).  
**Iceland Gull:** last 1 G 7 May.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 13 T Riga 22 Mar (DT); 9 T Riga 23-25 Mar (DT), high counts.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 128 PB May (KFo).  
**Black Tern:** arr 1 off G 8 May (JeB, CWo), late arrival.  
**Com. Tern:** arr 3 BB 5 Apr.  
**Forster’s Tern:** max 5 HB 7 May.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** 1 H/PA Mar, May, continued where seen for sev yrs.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 1 G 8 May & 2 CH 8 May.

**Snowy Owl:** BB 5, 30 Mar (LT, GL), only reports.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 1 G 12 May; max 112 M 23 May (DT), very good count.  
**CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW:** M 27 Apr (DT), 5<sup>th</sup> Reg record.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr 4 M 27 Apr (DT, LT); 1 M 31 May.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr 1 M 23 Apr (DT); 2 Greggsville, LIVI 21 Apr, early.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr 1 Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN 26 Apr (KS), early; max 19b M 23 May; total b 101 M 8-30 May (BBBO).  
**LEWIS’S WOODPECKER:** T Richmond, ONTA thru 9 Apr (F&EJ, mob, ph), continued from fall and winter.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr HB 14 Apr, no winter rep this year.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr 1 ICW 5 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr WAYN 22 May (SB, LL); M 28 May (DT); Badgerow P 29-31 May (KS); W 29 May (D&DTr); R 30 May (PD); good number of reports.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 1b M 20 May.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr 1 M 27 May, late arrival.  
**“Traill’s” Flycatcher:** max 45 b M 23 May; total b 169 M 14-30 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** total b 66 M 8-29 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr 1 T York, LIVI 1 Mar (DT), record early LIVI.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 1 HB & G 26 Apr, very early.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr 1 G 27 Apr, early.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** arr 1b M 25 May (BBBO); 1 M 27-29 May (BCI, mob), inland a ways from banding station.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr 1 M 18 Apr, early.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr 1 Newark, WAYN 22 Apr (SB), ties Reg record early.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1 ICW 12 May (BCI).  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** total b 50 14-30 May.  
**Blue Jay:** max 1790 HB 7 May, low max.  
**Fish Crow:** 1-10 many loc thru.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 2 M 10 Apr, early.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 620 BB – West Spit 11 Apr (DT).  
**Sedge Wren:** no reports.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 1 HB 9 Apr (DT), early; max 34 BB – West Spit 28 Apr (DT).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** total b 136 1-26 May; last 1 BB – West Spit 29 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr 1 ICW & W 14 May; total b 10 M May, very low.



**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush:** total b 7 M May, very low.

**Swainson's Thrush:** 26b M 23 May; max 30+ HB – West 22 May (RS); total b 84 M 15-30 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** total b 42 M Apr-May.

**Am. Robin:** max 30,000+ BB 4 Apr (DT, LT), good count.

**Gray Catbird:** total b 157 m 2-30 May.

**Am. Pipit:** arr G 15 Mar; max 122 HB 7 May, low.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** last 2 Hogan Pt, G 27 Apr (DT), Reg record late.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 377 T Wolcott 4 Mar (DT).

### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** last 3 BB – West Spit 11 Apr.

**Snow Bunting:** max 500 S 5 Mar; last 1 BB – West Spit 11 Apr.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 1b M 26 Apr (BBBO), Reg record early.

**Golden-crowned Warbler:** arr 1 BB – West Spit 27 Apr (DT, JSk), early; 4 rep sev loc May.

**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** 1 M 26 Apr (BCI), Reg record early.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** total b 6 M 7-28 May; 13 other rep 8-22 May.

**Nashville Warble:** total b 92 M 1-28 May.

**N. Parula:** max 10 CH 9 May (BCI).

**Yellow Warbler:** arr 1b M 17 Apr (BBBO), ties Reg record early; total b 212 M 2-30 May.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** total b 58 M 7-30 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 1 Victor 30 Apr (BBE), early; max 79b M 14 May; total b 474 M 2-30 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** last 1 BB 28 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr 1ICW 26 Apr (KG), early.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr 2 BB 10 Apr; max 275 HB – West 1 May (CWo); total b 53 M 1-28 May, low.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 1 Beechwoods SP, WAYN 22 Apr, early.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 2 G 26 Apr, early.

**Pine Warbler:** 1 W thru 4 Mar (JBo, NP), winter, photos; arr 2 W 9 Apr.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr 1 G 2 May (LBc, GL).

**Palm Warbler:** arr 1 BB – West Spit 11 Apr, early; total b 60 M 1-22 May, low.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** maxb 29 M 27 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr 1 Thousand Acre Swamp 25 Apr (BWi), Reg record early, photos.

**Am. Redstart:** 55 HB – West 21 May (AGu); 50+ HB – West 22 May (RS); max 58b M 19 May; total b 329 M 2-30 May.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** BB 13 May (LT, mob); 1-3 Armitage Rd WAYN/SENE 29 May thru (CJ, mob), likely will nest; T Rush 30 May (BCI); best showing in recent years.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** BB – West Spit 27 Apr (DT); 1b M 29 Apr (BBBO).

**Ovenbird:** arr 1 Thousand Acre Swamp 25 Apr (CiM), early.

**N. Waterthrush:** total b 66 M May.

**Connecticut Warbler:** HB 27 May (DT); M 27 May (LT).

**Com. Yellowthroat:** total b 177 M 3-30 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr 1 ICW 27 Apr (TPh), early.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** maxb 27 M 27 May; total b 148 M 12-30 May.

**Canada Warbler:** maxb 21 M 23 May; total b 86 M 12-29 May.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 Bergen Swamp, GEN 25 May (RS, KW); 1 M 31 May (DT).

### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last 1 MONR 1 May.

**Chipping Sparrow:** max 138 BB – West Spit 27 Apr (DT).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr 1 T Avon 3 May (DT); 1 Cook Rd, H 10 May thru RS, mob); 1 H 13 May (AGu); T Wolcott 13 May (sev); HB 20 May (AGu).

**Field Sparrow:** arr 1 East Bay, WAYN 2 Apr.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr 1 NR, Geneseo 1 May; max 15 NR 29 May (DD).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1 S 25 Mar.

**Lincoln’s Sparrow:** arr 1 Badgerow P 26 Apr; last 1 M 28 May.

**White-throated Sparrow:** total b 70 M 1-25 May, ver low; last 1 H 29 May.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** last 1 BB – West Spit 27 May.

**SUMMER TANAGER:** 1 fem BB – West Spit 13 May (KFO, DT).

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr 1 ICW 26 Apr (KG), Reg record early.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr 1 sev 26 Apr.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr 1 BB – West Spit 27 Apr (DT), early.

**DICKCISSEL:** 1 HB 20 May (AGu).

**Bobolink:** max 64 HB 7 May, low.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 22,000 BB – West Spit 11 Apr (DT).

**E. Meadowlark:** arr 1 S 9 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 1840 BB – West Spit 11 Apr (DT); max 4365 BB – West Spit 27 Apr (DT); 1760 BB – West Spit 28 Apr (DT); last 2 M 23 May.

**Com. Grackle:** max 18,700 BB – West Spit 11 Apr (DT).

**Orchard Oriole:** arr BB – West Spit 27 Apr.

**Purple Finch:** max 416 BB – West Spit 11 Apr (DT).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 HB 7 May 10 May (JeB, CWo, AGu).

**Com. Redpoll:** max 325 HF 10 Mar (BCI); last 3 Webster P 2 May & 1 G 2 May.

**Com. “Greater” Redpoll:** 1 HF 9 Mar (BCI).

**HOARY REDPOLL:** max 6 HF 10 Mar (BCI), many photos; total 13+ sev Mar; 1 T Naples 4 Apr (MF); last 1 HF 10 Apr (BCI).

**Pine Siskin:** max 145 BB – West Spit 28 Apr (DT).

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 818 HB 7 May (JeB, CWo, AGu).

**Evening Grosbeak:** 1 M 111 Mar (KG); 1 M 10 Apr (BCL, DD); 2 Hogan Pt G 1 May (DT).

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## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

**Hope Batcheller**

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Spring 2011 was quite wet, with precipitation levels in March and April both higher than average. March’s precipitation was 125% of normal, much of which fell as snow. This contributed to the fairly late snowmelt; many areas had snow cover until late March. April received 10 inches of precipitation, 200% of normal. May had close to average precipitation levels. Except for a cold spell in late March, temperatures were near average.

Migration brought a fairly standard waterfowl mixture to the Region. David Wheeler reported a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Knox-Marcellus Marsh on 16 March, and mid-March’s large Snow Goose movement came with scattered reports of **Ross’s Geese**. **Cackling Geese** were reported mixed with Canada Goose flocks throughout the season. As in the past few years, **Eurasian Wigeon** was reported in the Montezuma area in late March and early April.

In addition to these reports of truly countable waterfowl species, several other interesting ducks were also seen. Jay McGowan found a “**Eurasian**” **Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*) at George Rd. Pond in Dryden on 17 March and later a “**Common**” **Teal x Green-winged Teal** intergrade in the same place on 30 March. Chris Wood found a second intergrade at Montezuma NWR on 9 May. A male **hybrid scaup sp. x Ring-necked Duck** was found at Stewart Park on 12 March and stayed in the area through 3 April. Finally, Chris Wood photographed a **hybrid Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler** at the Montezuma NWR Visitor Center on 9 May (see pp. 206-207 & 242).

An **Eared Grebe** overwintered on Cayuga Lake for the twelfth winter in a row and was last reported on 12 March. Joe and Carol Slattery found two **American White Pelicans** at East Road at Montezuma on 7 May, which continued through 8 May. Particularly rare in the spring, a **Little Blue Heron** visited Sapsucker Woods on 5 May.

—continued p. 245

**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**Spring 2011**



Figure 1. Spruce Grouse, Parishville, *St. Lawrence*, 28 May 2011, © Melissa Burchard.



Figure 2. Fox Sparrow, Central Park, *New York*, 13 May 2010, © Lloyd Spitalnik. Stephen Chang presents a case that this bird is an example of the western North American “Sooty” Fox Sparrow (subspecies group *unalaschensis*) in this issue, pp. 203-205.

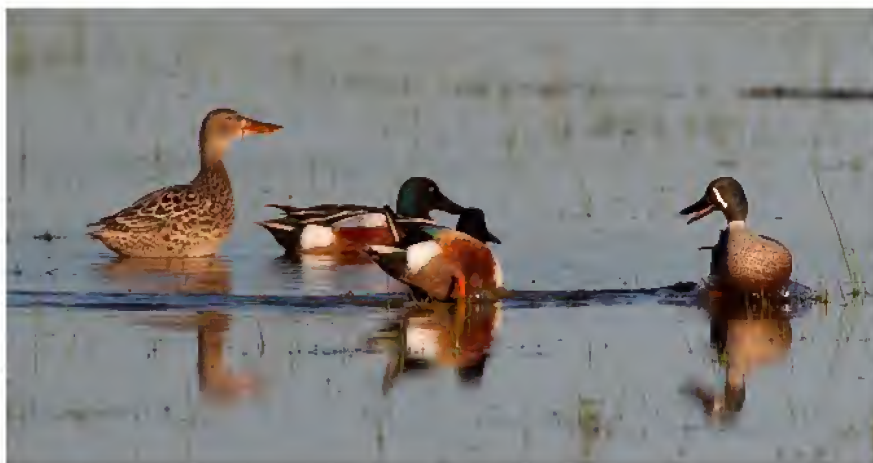


Figure 3. Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler hybrid, Montezuma NWR, *Seneca*, 19 May 2011, © C. L. Wood. The Blue-winged Teal influences are best appreciated when the bird is head-on. In addition to the obvious white crescent on the face (narrower than in Blue-winged), note the pale brown breast with fine spotting. The head appeared glossy green, similar in color to Northern Shoveler. See pp. 206-207.





Figure 4. Details same as in Fig. 3. Note the extensive cinnamon sides similar to a Northern Shoveler but with small black spotting. The color is richest in the center and paler on top and near the rump. The extensive green in the secondaries and blue upperwing coverts bordered by a bold white bar are very similar to the upperwing of a Northern Shoveler, as is the bold white underwing. The tail appears similar to that of a Blue-winged Teal. Also note the brownish breast with fine black spotting, white neck-ring, and white facial crescent.



Figure 5. Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler hybrid, Prospect Park, *Kings*, 22 Jan 2010, © Rob Jett. Note that this bird also shows a green head and finer markings on the breast than one would expect in Australian Shoveler. See pp. 206-207.



Figure 6. Glaucous Gull, pelagic out of Freeport, *Nassau*, 27 Mar 2011, © Peter Post.



Figure 7. Dark morph Ross's Goose, Pine Island, *Orange*, 5 Mar 11, © Curt McDermott. The dark morph of Ross's Goose is much rarer than that of Snow Goose ("Blue" Goose). This bird was part of an exceptional aggregation of rare waterfowl described in detail in Mike Bochnik's Region 9 report, pp. 274-279.

Two **White-faced Ibis** at Stewart Park on 7 May provided a first Tompkins County record for this species. Originally found by Tim Lenz, these breeding-plumaged birds were later viewed and photographed by many others. David Wheeler photographed another **White-faced Ibis** along the Montezuma NWR Wildlife Drive on 16 May.

This spring brought several interesting shorebird sightings to our Region. Dave Nutter found a **Willet** of the western subspecies (*Tringa semipalmata inornata*) at Myers Point on 28 April, and Tim Lenz found one at the Treman Marina on 3 May. Greg Lawrence and John Bateman reported a **Marbled Godwit** at Montezuma NWR on 21 May, which many observers saw and photographed on 23 May. Montezuma NWR also hosted a group of nine **Whimbrel** on 27 May. Fairly rare in the spring, **American Golden-Plovers** were reported from Montezuma on 21 April and 30 May. Also rare in the spring, David Wheeler found a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Montezuma on 18 May.

It was an excellent spring for **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings, with one at Treman State Marine Park on 5 May, a second in Freeville on 20 May, and a pair in Aurora 21-26 May. **White-eyed Vireos** were also easier to come by than normal. Bob McGuire found one in Lansing on 26 April, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes found one at the Hawthorn Orchard on 30 April, and Jay McGowan found one along Dodge Rd. in Ithaca on 2 May. Finally, Chris Wood found a **Sedge Wren** in Dryden on 22 May, which continued until the following morning.

Warbler migration was slow until late April, but a warm spell with light southerly winds on 26 April brought a large wave of migrants into the area. Ithaca's Hawthorn Orchard proved particularly birdy this spring, with 24 warbler species reported including high counts for several species. Highlights there include **Golden-winged Warbler** on 19 May, a "cacophony" of 85 **Tennessee Warblers** on 17 May, 17 **Blackburnian Warblers** on 17 May, 13 **Bay-breasted** and 60 **Blackpoll Warblers** on 21 May, and six **Canada Warblers** on 17 May.

As usual, there were scattered reports of the less common warblers as well. Ken Rosenberg had a **Yellow-throated Warbler** near the Ithaca Airport on 8 May, and **Prothonotary Warblers** again returned to breed in the Montezuma area. **Worm-eating Warbler** also continued to breed at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, as in the past several years.

A **Harris's Sparrow** that had overwintered at a feeder in Dryden was last reported on 5 May. Finally, several birders saw a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Montezuma NWR's Tschache Pool on 30 May, a particularly rare record for the spring.

A total of 254 species was reported this spring.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

DrLa – Dryden Lake, TOMP; HaOr – Hawthorn Orchard, TOMP; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MRun – Monkey Run, TOMP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtP – Mt Pleasant, TOMP; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt; SavM – Savannah Mucklands; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; SFair – Seneca County Fairgrounds, SENE; SLSP – Seneca Lake SP, SENE; StP – Stewart Park; HowI – Howland Island, CAYU.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

#### GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:

MWC 16 Mar (DW).

**Snow Goose:** max 200,000 SavM 12 Mar; last SavM 30 May (DW), late.

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** arr StP 5 Mar (TL, KR); last SaW 15 Mar (CS, JG, TS).

**BRANT:** Cass P TOMP 20 May (CW).

**Cackling Goose:** max 8 MtP 15 Mar (JM); last Seybolt Rd Bait Ponds SENE 27 Apr (JM), late.

**Gadwall:** max 530 MNWR 25 Mar (JM).

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** first Seneca Lake ONTA 8 Mar (RD); max 3 MNWR 25 Mar (JM); last MNWR 10 Apr (JM).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 2636 MNWR 25 Mar.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 3000 SavM 12 Mar.

**N. Pintail:** max 7000 SavM 12 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 1304 MNWR 25 Mar.

**“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** George Rd. Pond 17-20 Mar (JM).

**“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL x**

**Green-winged Teal:** George Rd. Pond 30 Mar (JM); MNWR 9 May (CW).

**Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler:**

MNWR 9 May (CW); see article this issue.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 6000 Cayuga L SP SENE 25 Mar; last Ithaca Airport TOMP 15 May.

**Hybrid scaup sp. x Ring-necked Duck:** StP 12 Mar-3 Apr (TL, JM, HB, *et al.*).

**Surf Scoter:** last DrLa 28 Apr (JM).

**White-winged Scoter:** last MyPt 15 Apr (SKr).

**Black Scoter:** Cayuga L 20 Mar; max 2 SLSP 5 Apr, last Aurora 7 Apr.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 38 MyPt 5 Apr; last MyPt 30 Apr.

**Horned Grebe:** max 237 MyPt 5 Apr (JM); last StP 7 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 6 MyPt 5 Apr; last George Rd TOMP 10 Apr.

**EARED GREBE:** last Cayuga L 12 Mar (HB, TL, JM), overwintering bird.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** 2 MWC 7-8 May (J&CS, mob).

**Least Bittern:** arr MNWR 28 Apr.

**Great Egret:** arr DrLa 5 Apr.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** SaW 5 May (WH, *et al.*).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr SaW 7 Apr; max 22 MWC 6 May.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** 2 StP 7 May (TL, mob); MNWR 16 May (DW).

**BLACK VULTURE:** 2 East Shore P TOMP 11 Apr (DNu), flyovers.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Rough-legged Hawk:** last Ithaca Airport TOMP 24 Apr.

**Golden Eagle:** last Taughannock Falls TOMP 22 Apr.

**Sora:** arr MNWR 4 May, late.

**Com. Moorhen:** max 9 HowI 30 Apr.

**Sandhill Crane:** arr Varick SENE 14 Mar.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER:** MWC 21 Apr (DNu, BM); MNWR 30 May (JM, TL, KR, SH), unusual in spring.



**Semipalmated Plover:** arr MNWR 23 Apr (DN), Reg record early; max 150 MNWR 30 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 250 MWC 23 Apr.  
**WILLET:** MyPt 28 Apr (DNu, mob), western subspecies; Treman State Marine P TOMP 3 May (TL, *et al.*).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 100 MWC 23 Apr.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr SFair 17 Apr.  
**WHIMBREL:** 2 MNWR 26 May (GK, JM, etc); 9 MNWR 27 May (JA, DK, mob); 4 MyPt 27 May (KR).  
**MARBLED GODWIT:** MNWR 21 Apr (GL, JohB); MNWR 23 Apr (mob).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 MyPt 27 May; 2 MyPt 29 May; max 20 MNWR 30 May.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr SavM 30 Apr (HB, JM, BM), early; max 10 MNWR 26 May.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** MNWR 18 May (DW), unusual in spring.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr StP 4 Apr; max 147 MyPt (CW).  
**Herring Gull:** max 6000 MNWR 25 Mar (JM).  
**Iceland Gull:** last MNWR 25 Mar.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 4 MNWR 25 Mar (JM); last Cayuga L CAYU 23 Apr.  
**Glaucous Gull:** last StP 6 Apr (TL).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 70 MNWR 25 Mar.  
**Black Tern:** max 10 MNWR 7 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**BARN OWL:** Danby TOMP 29 Apr (BE), recorded in flight.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 3 Ovid SENE 12 Mar.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** TOMP 8 May (SK); HaOr 19 May (GC, CTH).  
**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER:** Hog Hole TOMP 5 May (CW); Freeville TOMP 20 May (CW); pr Aurora CAYU 21-26 May (mob).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Fort Hill TOMP 22 May; LPBP 25, 29 May.  
**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** Lansing TOMP 26 Apr (BM); HaOr 30 Apr (CTH); Dodge Rd. TOMP 2 May (JM).  
**SEDGE WREN:** Dryden TOMP 22-23 May (CW, JB, JM).  
**Gray-checked Thrush:** arr SaW 17 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** max 12 SaW 23 Apr.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** last 17 East Rd SENE 10 Apr.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr HaOr 11 May (CTH); last HaOr 19 May (JM).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** max 85 HaOr 17 May (JM), high count.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Etna TOMP 29 Apr; Dodge Rd TOMP 2 May; last SaW 16 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr StP 20 Apr (JM), ties Reg record early.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Cornell U 26 Apr (AJ), ties Reg record early.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr SaW 27 Apr (MC), Reg record early; max 5 Ithaca TOMP 6 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 120 HowI 30 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Lansing 25 Apr (BH), Reg record early; max 17 HaOR 17 May (JM).  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** Lansing 8 May (KR).  
**Pine Warbler:** max 11 MRun 15 May.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Lansing TOMP 26 Apr; max 12 LPBP 14 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 13 HaOr 21 May (JM, HB).  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 60 HaOr 21 May (JM, HB).  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr HowI 30 Apr; max 12 HowI 10 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** max 28 MRun 14 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** MNWR 6 May (JB, CW); MWC 30-31 May (mob).  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** LPBP 25 May (JM).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 21 MNWR 14 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Phelps ONTA 29 Apr.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** max 4 SaW 20 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** max 6 HaOr 17 May (JM).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr SFair 19 Apr.  
**HARRIS'S SPARROW:** last Dryden TOMP 5 May (JM), overwintering bird.  
**Bobolink:** max 50 SFair 10 May.  
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** MNWR 30 May (TL, SH, JM, KR).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 130 SaW 23 Apr.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr MyPt 28 Apr.  
**Red Crossbill:** MRun 11 Apr (CW, JB), flyover.  
**Com. Redpoll:** last TOMP 1 May, late.

## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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March was snowy across the Region and April was one of the wettest on record. Overall, the spring period was exceptionally wet, breaking records at many reporting stations. Temperatures were normal to slightly above normal. Due to very poor back-to-back cone crop years and the very wet spring, the cone crop in Central New York was assessed as excellent for the upcoming year. I rated it as the best Central NY cone crop since 2000. White ash, beech, and other deciduous tree species appear to be producing bumper crops as well.

The first goose flights occurred as usual during early March, and ducks followed on subsequent warm fronts. The spring hawk watches east of Otsego Lake yielded much lower numbers this year than last year. Some thought the low numbers were because of wet, unseasonable weather dispersing the birds across a wider area. Returning breeding **Merlins** were noted in some small cities and villages but were also missing from a few reliable areas where they've been reported in recent years; again, this might have been because of the wet spring. Waders and marsh birds were very well represented: Common Moorhen, Upland Sandpiper, Great Egret, **Cattle Egret**, American Bittern, and Least Bittern. Perhaps the two best birds for the Region this spring were the **Eared Grebe** seen by Chris Wood at Whitney Point Reservoir and a presumed **White Ibis** seen in a field in Cortland by Pam Stark. A NYSARC report has apparently been submitted for the ibis and, if accepted, would likely be a County first.

**Common Raven** continues to increase as a breeder throughout the area. A pair nested again this year at Lime Hollow Nature Center less than half a mile from the city limits of Cortland; 3-4 young were banded. **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard on nesting grounds in late May in the Pharsalia area. Other than in Delaware County along the edges of the Catskills, the Pharsalia area is the only place in Region 4 where Swainson's Thrush can be found nesting. Many typically more northern breeding warblers can also be heard regularly in the Pharsalia area, along with Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven, both crossbills, Pine Siskin, and other northern specialties such as White-throated Sparrow. **Type 1 Red Crossbills** were heard singing at a few Chenango County locations in late June.

This year, migration seemed sluggish, with some species seeming to be late, but then the floodgates opened and an interesting mix of late and early migrants were seen on the same day on 26 April. Between 25-28 April, record early dates were reported for Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler, Ovenbird, and Indigo Bunting. **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen again at Chenango Valley SP, but it didn't seem to stick around this year. **Cerulean Warblers** were again observed on territory at the south end of Skaneateles Lake. Three of the best songbird finds for the spring were **Kentucky Warbler**, **Prothonotary Warbler**

(Wildwood Nature Preserve), and Orchard Oriole.

It was a big redpoll year, with several area feeders reporting 100+ Common Redpolls. As is typical with large redpoll invasions, a few scattered **Hoary Redpolls** and “**Greater**” Common Redpolls were noted mixed in the flocks. Redpolls seemed to linger well into April. There was a noticeable return flight of Pine Siskins across the area in April into mid May. It was a decent Evening Grosbeak year, with a few small flocks of 5-50 lingering into mid April at high elevation areas in Chenango and Cortland counties.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BCC – Binghamton Country Club; BHL – Buck Horn Lake, OTSE; Bing – Binghamton; BPd – Boland Pond; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; Cort – T of Cortland; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center; GP – Greenwood Park, BROO; LHNC – Lime Hollow

Nature Center; ML – Mirror Lake, TIOG; NuH – Nuthatch Hollow, BROO; OtL – Otsego Lake, OTSE; PharsWMA – Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area; RivR – River Rd., Endwell, BROO; SkanL – Skaneateles Lake; UL – Upper Lisle; WCM – West Corners Marsh, BROO; WPR – Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** sev flocks early Mar.

**Brant:** “loose V” Chenango Valley 25 Apr; 2 WPR May 21.

**Wood Duck:** a few overwintered River Rd Endwell and elsewhere; arr Bpd and Tioga Airport 12 Mar; max 25 River Rd Endwell 19 Mar.

**Gadwall:** arr Hillcrest Pits 3 Mar.

**Am. Wigeon:** few overwintered; arr 3 Bpd 12 Mar; max 20 Chenango bridge 13 Mar; 2 LHNC 5 May.

**Am. Black Duck:** dozens of reports; numerous until early April; 1 Bpd and Brick Pond Trails TIOG into May.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr River Rd Endwell 19 Mar; pair Bpd late Apr.

**N. Shoveler:** arr Rte 12a and Chenango Bridge 13 Mar.

**N. Pintail:** arr 1 BROO 5 Mar; max 20 TIOG 7 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr BROO 6 Mar; max 31 CHEN 27 Mar; several reports.

**Canvasback:** no reports.

**Redhead:** rep Hillcrest Pits & Bpd Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 2 Bing 5 Mar; max 45 Bpd 2 Apr; last end of Apr.

**Greater Scaup:** BROO 26 Apr; only report, late.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr BROO 20 Mar; few reports.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 Otsego Lake 16 Apr, **WHITE-WINGED-SCOTER (R4):** one Quaker Lake 20 Apr (AL).

**Bufflehead:** sev reports, no big numbers.

**Com. Goldeneye:** few reports.

**Hooded Merganser:** many reports; breeding at many beaver ponds scattered thru Region.

**Com. Merganser:** max 20 Bpd 13 Mar; breeding along rivers and larger ponds/lakes.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 10 WPR 6 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** 4 TIOG 21 Mar.

**Com. Loon:** 12 WPR 6 Apr.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** pair breeding Bpd; 6 reports.

**Horned Grebe:** arr Chenango Bridge 13 Mar; max 32 WPR 6 Apr.

**Red-necked Grebe:** BROO 17 Apr.

**EARED GREBE (R4):** WPR 6 Apr (CW).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr BROO Mar 21; max WPR 6 Apr; sev May reports; breeding in area yet?

**Am. Bittern:** arr 2 LHNC 22 Apr; BUNP 28 Apr.

**LEAST BITTERN (R4):** BUNP 28 Apr (DH). Great Egret: a few reports; unusual in Reg 4 in Spring, but becoming more common.

**CATTLE EGRET (R4):** Murphy’s Gravel Pit 16 May (mob).

**Green Heron:** arr BROO 26 Apr.

**WHITE IBIS:** Cort 11 May (PS, NYSARC), likely 1st CORT record if accepted by NYSARC.

**Turkey Vulture:** many reports.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr West River Rd CORT 5 Mar (JB); very early report for upstate.

**Bald Eagle:** much fewer migrating eagles at hawkwatch sites east of Otsego Lake Mar; nesting numbers stable or still increasing along SusqR, TioR, and other areas.

**N. Harrier:** 9 reports.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** appears stable, but hard to find due to nesting in remote forested areas.

**Cooper’s Hawk:** becoming a common city/village nester.

**N. Goshawk:** pr nesting Heiberg SUNY-ESF Forest CORT Apr; pr North Rd Phar Mar.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr BROO, OSTE, CORT, CHEN 10-25 Mar; sev prs thru Reg, well established in state lands in sev counties.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr BROO 17 Apr; also well established in many state forests throughout Region.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** few rep; last Marathon 2 Apr.

**Golden Eagle:** much fewer migrating eagles at hawkwatch sites east of Otsego Lake Mar.

**Am. Kestrel:** few wintering; influx end Mar; still fairly well established as a breeder despite lower wintering numbers.

**Merlin:** usual prs not seen Binghamton, & Cooperstown Apr; pr Cortland; other sightings away from cities.

**Peregrine Falcon:** breeding pr Binghamton Mar.

**Virginia Rail:** arr BROO 17 Apr.

**Sora:** arr Bpd 1 May, early.

**COMMON MOORHEN (R4):** LHNC 29 May (WG).

**Am. Coot:** Brick Pond Trail thru May.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr & max 10 Murphy's 16 May.

**Killdeer:** arr beginning Mar.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr WPR 10 Apr.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BROO 23 Apr; max 11 Murphy's 16 May; 10+ rep.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Bpd Anson Rd/TIOG airport 4 Apr; 7 rep.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr BROO 23 Apr; max 4 Murphy's 16 May; 10 rep.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr BROO 3 May; max 30 Murphy's 16 May; sev other rep.

**UPLAND SANPIPER (R4):** OTSE 7 May (GC).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr BROO 5 May; max 8 WPR 27 May.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (R4):** BROO 4 May (DW).

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr CHEN 2 Apr; few reports.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr BROO 12 Mar.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr & max 17 River Rd 14 Apr.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** well established in all areas except higher elevations of DELA and CHEN.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr BROO 4 April.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Richford 17 May; numbers reduced from recent big tent caterpillar years.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Richford 13 May; numbers reduced from recent big tent caterpillar years.

**Barred Owl:** few reports, underreported.

**COMMON NIGHTHAWK (R4):** DELA 21 May (RP).

**Chimney Swift:** BROO 30 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr BROO 1 May.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr BROO 9 May; increasing rep after 20 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Aqua Terra TIOG 15 May; increasing rep after 20 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Murphy's 12 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Murphy's 5 May.

**E. Phoebe:** arr River Walk BROO 26 Mar.

**Great-crested Flycatcher:** arr CVSP 3 May; several rep after 7 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr BROO 25 Apr; increasing rep after 5 May.

**N. Shrike:** no reports.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr CVSP 1 May; increasing rep after 10 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Wolfe Park BROO 22 Apr; increasing rep after 1 May.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr Parsons Rd 1 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr DELA 25 April, early.

**Fish Crow:** breeding Endwell, Binghamton, Owego, Vestal, & Union.

**Com. Raven:** res in high elevation loc; nested again LHNC within half mile of city limits of Cortland; widespread and increasing resident throughout and expanding into lower elevations.

**Purple Martin:** DELA 23 May.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr River Rd Endwell 10 Apr.

**Tree Swallow:** arr TIOG 31 Mar; "big numbers" ~1 Apr; max 104 Brick Pd West Trail 15 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr BROO 26 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr Murphy's 3 May; ~8 nests Preble CORT June; ~4 nests Port Watson Bridge CORT June.

**Barn Swallow:** arr Bpd 9 Apr.

**Tufted Titmouse:** inc nester along many river valleys of Region <1500'; cont to expand up to 1800-2100'; less common CHEN & DELA.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** widespread in high elevation state forests.

**Brown Creeper:** widespread scattered rep thru Apr.

**Carolina Wren:** nesting along many of the major river valleys in Region and smaller ravines <1300ft; less common CHEN & DELA.

**Marsh Wren:** Bpd 30 Apr, where nesting.

**House Wren:** arr CVSP 24 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** arr TIO 9 Apr; fairly common after mid Apr in state forests.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** uncommon early Apr; inc later in high elevation spruce plantations & larger hemlock forests.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr CVSP 1 9 Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr DELA 29 Apr.

**E. Bluebird:** sev rep Mar; inc after March.

**Veery:** arr TIOG 29 Apr; increasing reports after 5 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** breeders returned to Phars WMA late May.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr Richford 13 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr TIOG 29 Apr; widespread 10 May thru.

**Gray Catbird:** 2 arr TIOG 26 Apr.

**N. Mockingbird:** "few" overwintering birds Owego, Bing, & Cort; arr April; numbers better CORT.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr CORT 5 Apr; inc rep late Apr.

**Am. Pipit:** few reports mid Apr-early May.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** few CORT early Mar; last mid Mar.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr TIOG 29 Apr; widespread, many rep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr BROO 3 May; max 15 BROO 15 May; inc over spring.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr Richford 30 Apr; many reports after 2 May.  
**N. Parula:** arr BROO 26 Apr, Reg record early; 10 rep.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr BROO 26 Apr; max 6 Johnson City 27 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr River Rd Endwell 26 Apr.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr BROO 26 Apr.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr BROO 28 Apr, Reg record early; 5 rep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr BROO 26 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Aqua Terra 17 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr CVSP 24 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr CORT 2 May; sev rep 2 May.  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R4):** CVSP 24 APR (BK). seems to appear at CVSP every few years.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr CVSP 9 Apr; inc number loc.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Endicott 29 Apr.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr Bing 18 April; few rep.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** BROO 12 May; 5 reports.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr TIOG & CORT 13 May; 25 rep.  
**CERULEAN WARBLER (R4):** arr BROO 12 May (CW); max 3 SkanL May (MY).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr BROO 26 April; few rep.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr Parsons Rd 1 May.  
**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R4):** Wildwood Nature Reserve 13 May (NM).  
**Ovenbird:** arr BROO 26 Apr, Reg record early; inc 2 May.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr CVSP 2 May; 6 rep.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr BROO 20 Apr; many rep Apr thru.  
**KENTUCKY WARBLER (R4):** BROO 5 May (DW).  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr W. Burlington 7 May; max 3 Scott 20 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr DELA 25 Apr.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr BROO 10 May; scarce breeder in Reg except for CORT; territorial bird two years in a row OTSE where its rare.  
**WILSON'S WARBLER (R4):** arr BROO 13 May; 2 rep.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr TIOG 4 May; few reports.

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr BROO 19 Apr; many rep 20 Apr thru.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last CORT early Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr WPR 6 Apr.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr TIOG 12 Apr; many rep 16 Apr thru.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr BROO 13 Apr.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr BROO 21 Mar; sev rep thru mid Apr.  
**Song Sparrow:** arr BPd7 Mar; max 20 BPd 25 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** no reports.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr UL 10 Apr.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** overwintered in small numbers at sev loc.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Smithboro TIOG 15 Apr; last mid May.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr BROO 28 Apr.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr BROO 28 Apr; sev loc after 2 May.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr BROO 25 Apr, Reg record early; many after 10 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr Knapp Hill Rd 24 Apr; inc mid May thru.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr TIOG 21 Apr; inc early Apr.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr mid Mar; few reports Apr, no big numbers.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Bing 28 Apr.  
**ORCHARD ORIOLE (R4):** BROO 14 May (DN).  
**Purple Finch:** arr few Mar; inc 10 Apr; widespread breeding behavior May above 1000'.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** male at feeder Cort 4 Apr; flyover TIOG 3 May.  
**RED CROSSBILL (R4):** few CHEN May (MY); very bad cone crop this past year, but upcoming year's cone crop looks to be excellent.  
**Com. Redpoll:** max 400 Treadwell Mar 30; good numbers across much of the central section of Reg into early Apr; last CORT 16 Apr.  
**"GREATER" COMMON REDPOLL (R4):** like with Hoary Redpoll, a few were mixed in here and there.  
**HOARY REDPOLL (R4):** max 3 Scott 4 Mar (MY); a few others including BROO (NM).  
**Pine Siskin:** few lingerers Mar, small, widespread return flight Apr-early May; max 43 BROO 16 Apr.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** 20-40+ across Region Mar-Apr, average numbers.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** few small flocks of 5-50 high elevations CHEN & CORT thru mid Apr.

## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**Bill Purcell**

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Overall the spring season was warm and very wet. In March the average temperature was 33.3° F., 0.3° below normal, with 2.86" of precipitation, 0.16" below normal, and a total of 18.5" of snow. The April averages were 49.2°, 3.9° above normal, and 8.53" of precipitation, 5.14" above normal. The May averages were 62.8°, 5.7° above normal, with 3.90" of precipitation, 0.51" above normal. Ice out on Oneida Lake was 21 March and on Fourth Lake 22 April. Northern Herkimer County still had two feet of snow on the ground on 6 April, but then the rains took care of that.

The April rains and resultant high water in wetlands swamped some waterfowl nests, but one year of high water will have little effect on Canada Goose and Mallard populations. Once again, Snow Geese and Canada Geese migrated early, with peak flights in the first half of March. Unusual waterfowl this season were: one Greater White-fronted Goose, several Cackling Goose, and three Eurasian Wigeon. Dabbler migration highlights included many American Wigeon and Northern Pintail in the Howland Island area, large numbers of Green-winged Teal in the mucklands of Madison County, and Eurasian Wigeon at three sites.

Oneida Lake hosted large flocks of Ring-necked Ducks and up to 6,000 scaup, most of which were not separated by species due to distance and time considerations. The Oneida Lakewatch at Phillips Point was conducted for the fifth year, and numbers of White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Loon were fairly average. A flock of 11 Black Scoters was good by local spring standards, and the usual few Red-throated Loons came past. Region-wide low counts of Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck were most likely attributable to observer inattention. The peak flights of both Horned and Red-necked Grebes occurred on the same day at Oneida Lake. Flocks of 12 and 9 Great Egrets along Oneida Lake were unusual, and Black-crowned Night-Heron migrants were seen in Madison County and flying past Derby Hill during twilight hours.

Northerly winds and cold weather over the last two weeks of March came during the peak flight period for Cooper's Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk at Derby Hill. The hawks migrated, but well inland from Lake Ontario. Turkey Vulture numbers were also reduced by the weather. Both Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle set new seasonal records at Derby Hill. Rare for Derby Hill were two Black Vultures and two Swainson's Hawks; another Black Vulture was seen over Cazenovia late in the season. Most raptors prefer to remain over land and not fly long distances over open water, but by checking radar Tom Carrolan may have found that large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks moved over Lake Ontario and indeed jumped from land as much as 30 miles west of Derby Hill



and the east end of the lake. The hawks could, by that time, see both the eastern and northern shore of the lake. This will require more study in future years.

Sandhill Cranes were back to more normal levels a year after few were seen last year, but there was no sign of crane courtship or even of cranes on the ground. A Piping Plover was found along the sand dunes of eastern Lake Ontario in May for the first spring record in 27 years. The plover was seen again ten days later but not reported afterwards. High water on the lake this year would make nesting difficult, and the beach gets heavy recreational use in the summer. There was a good late flight of Black-bellied Plover, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and Dunlin along Oneida Lake, with most of them using the small, open islands south of Constantia for brief rests. A Willet was also found on the islands and another Willet flew by Derby Hill. Red-necked Phalarope was found in a seasonal pond and White-rumped Sandpiper in a muckland. Disappointing were Upland Sandpiper, reported from only two locations, and Short-billed Dowitcher and Pectoral Sandpiper, with only single reports of each.

Iceland Gull was not seen after mid-March, while Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls lingered into May. An adult Laughing Gull was seen at Fair Haven in late May, a single Little Gull was with migrant Bonaparte's Gulls on Oneida Lake, and Forster's Tern was seen at Brewerton and Derby Hill.

Cuckoo numbers seemed low, likely in response to the decline of tent caterpillars over much of our area. Migrant owls were scarce, with only a single Long-eared Owl reported and two Northern Saw-whet Owls heard in breeding areas. Common Nighthawk was noted at a number of sites in late May but few now breed locally. Eastern Whip-poor-will may have been down slightly in areas north of Oneida Lake. Red-headed Woodpecker reports were slightly encouraging, and a single Black-backed Woodpecker was found in the Old Forge area. Small numbers of Red-bellied Woodpeckers flying past Derby Hill in early May might represent migrants and should be monitored in the future.

Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo reports were up over numbers of the past few years. Northern Shrike lingered into April, and a roost of over 40 Fish Crows in Syracuse was especially notable. It seems very likely that the species has expanded beyond the few spots birders have usually looked for them. At Derby Hill, the Black-capped Chickadee movement was good, but a species that often flies with them, White-breasted Nuthatch, was scarce as a migrant. Swainson's Thrush was common in the middle of May, and several Gray-cheeked Thrush were seen along Lake Ontario in late May. A large nocturnal migration over Syracuse was monitored by Lewis Grove and included many Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes plus one Bicknell's Thrush. Bohemian Waxwing had mostly departed the Region by March, but a flock was present in Oneida County into April. Gray Catbird and Brown Thrasher numbers were consistent with past years, and although a few Northern Mockingbirds were reported outside traditional breeding areas, they don't seem to be advancing their breeding range.

South winds brought the first big wave of neotropical migrants on 26 April and another on 11 May. Generally moderate weather in May meant that there

were migrants on most days as birds were continually moved through. It was a good season for Orange-crowned, Cape May, Prairie and Bay-breasted Warblers; several Prothonotary Warblers flew past Derby Hill; and two Kentucky Warblers and one Connecticut Warbler were seen. Most of the common warblers were seen in good numbers. Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers were widespread but low counts were reported. Golden-winged Warbler can still be found on territory but often in a sea of Blue-winged Warblers. Acadian Flycatcher was a miss this season.

Migrant sparrows, such as Vesper, Lincoln's, and White-crowned, were reported in low numbers this season. Very early Chipping Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow had likely wintered locally. Bobolink and Orchard Oriole were early arrivals. There were 11 Orchard Orioles seen passing Derby Hill, and they were reported from at least seven sites including the Mohawk Valley in Herkimer County, where they are still unusual.

No crossbills were reported for the period, not a surprise given the lack of cones. A few Hoary Redpolls were still present early in the season. Northbound Purple Finches and Common Redpolls peaked at Derby Hill in April, and Pine Siskins in May. Evening Grosbeak remained at some feeders well into April, but was quite scarce elsewhere.

For the season, 248 species were reported, 7 more than the most recent 10-year average. Highlights were many and included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Black Vulture, Swainson's Hawk, Piping Plover, Willet, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Red-necked Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Forster's Tern, Bicknell's Thrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

### DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max Date</u>	<u>Total</u>
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar	1220	30 Mar	10,467
Osprey	19 Mar	87	27 Apr	364
Bald Eagle	18 Feb	70	27 Apr	609
No. Harrier	18 Feb	70	11 Apr	602
Sharp-sh. Hawk	3 Mar	809	11 Apr	4111
Cooper's Hawk	4 Mar	23	17 Mar	158
No. Goshawk	18 Feb	9	17 Mar	47
Red-sh. Hawk	4 Mar	134	17 Mar	313
Broad-winged Hawk	13 Apr	4901	27 Apr	19,008
Red-tailed Hawk	18 Feb	453	11 Apr	3476
Rough-legged Hawk	18 Feb	32	17 Mar	266
Golden Eagle	4 Mar	26	27 Apr	111
Am. Kestrel	1 Mar	42	27 Apr	262
Merlin	12 Mar	12	13 May	52
Peregrine Falcon	17 Apr	-	-	5
<b>Total, inc. unid.</b>				<b>39,858</b>

## CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Adair, Betty Armbruster, Faith Baker, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Ken Burdick, Rose Burdick, Andrea Burke, Bernie Carr, Gerald Case, Richard Cohen, Seth Cutright, Greg Dashnau, Rose DeNeve, Lewis Grove, Bill Gruenbaum, Larry Hall, Gene Huggins, Kevin Jablonski, Joshua LaCelle, Josiah LaCelle, Robbie LaCelle, Gary Lee, Jason Mauro, Kevin McGann, Janet McGraw, Thomas McKay, Yvonne Merriam, David Nash, Kevin Pace, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Margaret Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Tom Salo, Linda Salter, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Jim Tarolli, Andrew Van Norstrand, Scott Warsen, David Wheeler, Brian White, Andrea Wiggins, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BL – Beaver Lake Nature Center; Bvll – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GLSP – Green Lakes SP; HI – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OneiL – Oneida Lake; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; SB – Sunset Bay Park, T Scriba; SCH – T Schroepel; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; StMC – Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe; WPd – Woodman Pond, Hamilton.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** SCH 12 Mar (KM).

**Snow Goose:** max 58,300 DH 12 Mar; 31,760 Skan 15 Mar.

**Brant:** arr OneiL 2 May; max 1382 OneiL 25 May.

**Cackling Goose:** 2 DH 15, 30 Mar; OneiL 1 May.

**Canada Goose:** last count of 1000+ 16 Mar.

**Mute Swan:** max 10 FH 13 Mar.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 Volney after 22 Mar.

**Tundra Swan:** max 64 SCH 4 Mar.

**Wood Duck:** max 59 Poland 17 Apr.

**Gadwall:** max 42 Brewerton 16 Mar.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Carnecross Salt Pond 26 Mar; TR 4 Apr; OneiL 12 Apr.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 320 HI 19 Mar.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 28 Brewerton 3 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 4 per day.

**N. Shoveler:** max 15 UM 2 Apr.

**N. Pintail:** max 525 HI 19 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 500 SL 25 Mar.

**Canvasback:** max 6 FH 13 Mar.

**Redhead:** max 76 OnonL 13 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 370 Bridgeport 31 Mar.

**Greater Scaup:** 600 per day OneiL 31 Mar to 25 Apr.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 320 OneiL 18 Mar.

**scaup species:** to 6000 per day OneiL in Apr.

**Surf Scoter:** arr OneiL 5 Apr; max 6 OneiL 24 Apr.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 144 OneiL 14 May.

**Black Scoter:** max 11 OneiL 21 May.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 402 OneiL 5 Apr.

**Bufflehead:** max 88 Brewerton 16 Mar.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 326 OnonL 13 Mar.

**Hooded Merganser:** 19 Otisco L 26 Mar.

**Com. Merganser:** max 820 OnonL 19 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 65 DH 11 Mar.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 4 per day, no reports from BL.

**Red-throated Loon:** Oswego 20-23 Mar; OneiL 24 Apr; max 3 WPd 5-7 May.

**Com. Loon:** max 129 OneiL 21 Apr; 5 prs. Woodhull L 25 May.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 5 Volney 19 Apr.

**Horned Grebe:** max 76 Oneil 30 Apr.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 38 Oneil 30 Apr.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 730 Oswego 6 May.  
**Am. Bittern:** max 5 WM after 1 May.  
**Least Bittern:** 3 SPd 25 May; Weaver L 31 May.  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 52 DH 4 Apr.  
**Great Egret:** arr DH 11 Apr, max 12 Oneil 9 May and 9 Oneil 11 May.  
**Green Heron:** arr 27 Apr; max 7 DH 22 May.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** WPd 22 Apr (RC); 2 DH 27 Apr; DH 22 May.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Black Vulture:** DH 29 Mar, 27 Apr; Cazenovia 25 May.  
**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** DH 22 Apr, 22 May.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** f but no mate Utica thru.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr SCH 10 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr SCH 22 Apr.  
**Com. Moorhen:** arr Volney 19 Apr; max 20 Volney 16 May.  
**Am. Coot:** max 2 Oswego thru 23 Mar.  
**Sandhill Crane:** arr 2 DH 15 Mar; max 7 DH 25 Apr; total 22 DH for season.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** DH 18 Apr (SC, DW), Reg record early; max 58 Oneil 23 May.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr SL 8 May; max 30 SL 16 May.  
**PIPING PLOVER:** SPd 10 May (LG, SW, ph) to 21 May (SA, TS), last spring record 1984.  
**Killdeer:** max 67 DH 4 Apr.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr LOL 27 Apr; max 5 per day.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr SL 14 Apr; max 8 SL 4 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Port Byron 19 Mar; max 18 SL 29 Apr.  
**Willet:** Oneil 30 May (DW); DH 31 May (BP).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr SL 25 Mar; max 22 SL 4 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr Fulton 22 Apr; 2 Verona 21 May.  
**Whimbrel:** arr 8 Oneil 15 May; max 38 FH 27 May; 33 Oneil 26 May; 11 Oneil 23 May.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 2 Oswego 15 May; max 45 Oneil 29 May.  
**Red Knot:** 5 Oneil 30 May (KM).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 110 Oneil 30 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 100 SL 14 May.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Volney 21 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Lysander 17 May, only report.  
**Dunlin:** arr 10 SL 29 Apr; max 255 Oneil 26 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 3 SL 16 May, only report.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr SL 28 Mar; max 19 DH 4 Apr.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr TR 12 Mar; Limekiln L 17 Mar, with 2 foot snow on ground.  
**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** m. SL 18-19 May (BP, mob), 3rd Reg spring record.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** FH 13 Mar; max 171 Oneil 11 Apr.  
**Little Gull:** Oneil 3 May.  
**LAUGHING GULL (R5):** FH 27 May (DW, BP).  
**Iceland Gull:** last FH 10 Mar.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Bville 5 Mar; SL 2 Apr; FH 10 Mar; Oswego 17 May.  
**Glaucous Gull:** FH 10 Mar; DH 2 Apr; Oswego 17 May.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr 10 Apr; max 294 Oswego 6 May.  
**Black Tern:** arr 3 May; max 6 Salmon R 21 May.  
**Com. Tern:** arr Oneil 21 Apr.  
**Forster's Tern:** 2 Brewerton 17 Apr; 2 DH 18 Apr.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr LOL 14 May; max 2 per day.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr BL 9 May; max 4 GLSP 22 May.  
**Long-eared Owl:** DH 9 Apr, only report.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Clinton 13 Mar; Camden 20 May.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Syr 14 May; max 6 DH 21 May.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Constantia 30 Apr; max 3 per day.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr LOL 26 Apr.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Bville 1 May; max 47 DH 13 May.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr DH 8 May; 7 more DH migrants; Lysander 23 May.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 6-8/day DH early May, possible migrants.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr GLSP 26 Mar.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Third Lake Creek 25 Mar.  
**N. Flicker:** max 349 DH 26 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** SFNS 22 May; Hastings 30 May; Altmar 30 May.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 5 SB 29 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr TR 17 May; max 3 FH 27 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr 13 May, several sites.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr UM 12 May; max 16 Clay 21 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Camden & DH 27 Apr; max 6 DeWitt 11 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr North Bay 22 Mar.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Skan 27 Apr; max 11 CM 21 May.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr LOL 26 May; max 17 DH 2 May.  
**N. Shrike:** Pulaski 1 Mar; GLSP 25 Mar; Salisbury 2 Apr; last Pulaski 24 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr HI 30 Apr.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Camden 24 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr DeWitt 26 Apr; max 10 SPd 12 May.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Camden 16 May; SB 21 May; WH 29 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr DH 9 May.  
**Blue Jay:** max 4670 DH 12 May.  
**Fish Crow:** 4 DH 10 Apr; 48 Oakwood Cem Syr 13 Mar (AW); May reports from 7 sites.  
**Horned Lark:** max 54 Manheim 10 Mar.  
**Purple Martin:** arr WM 1 Apr, early.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr DH 15 Mar; max 1650 Oneil 16 Apr.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr DH 11 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr DH 11 Apr.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr DH 26 Apr.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr DH 30 Mar, early.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 246 DH 26 Apr.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 7 St MC 17 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr LOL 25 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** arr SFNS 26 Mar.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr GLSP 27 Mar.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr LOL 12 Apr; max 8 Chittenango 5 May.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Camden 6 Apr; max 35 Camden 26 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr Fabius 30 Apr.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 50 Syr 19-20 May, night flight; 3 LOL 28 May.  
**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** Syr 20 May, night flight (LG).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** 200+ Syr 19-20 May, night flight.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr LOL 5 Apr; max 15/day LOL 20-27 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr LOL 28 Apr; max 11 HI 10 May.  
**Am. Robin:** max 20,135 DH 4 Apr, late peak flight.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr widespread 26 Apr.  
**N. Mockingbird:** Stratford 18 Mar, north of range.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Bvll 14 Apr; max 19 GLSP 24 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr & max 24 Otisco 26 Mar; scarce May.

258

**Bohemian Waxwing:** max and last 25 SFNS 6 Apr.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 520 DH 31 May.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** max and last 800 SCH 13 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Camden 27 Apr; max 6 SFNS 11 May.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Fayetteville 26 Apr.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr WM 10 May; max 8 Chittenango 18 May.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 2 DH 14 May; SB 16 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr Fayetteville 26 Apr; 6 TR 11 May.  
**N. Parula:** arr Fayetteville 26 Apr; max 14 StMC 6 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr Hamilton 20 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Fayetteville 26 Apr (LG, mob), Reg record early; max 12 StMC 6 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Navarino 6 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr and max 6 SB 11 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr widespread 26 Apr; max 30 DH 18 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 1200 DH 26 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr widespread 26 Apr; max 10 Scriba 12 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Camden 28 Apr; max 15 SB 21 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Constantia 19 Mar.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr DH 27 Apr; 4 other reports, all migrants. 1 Apr; max 7 per day LOL.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Syr 29 Apr (JMcG), Reg record early; max 15 SB 21 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Bvll 11 May; max 7 GLSP 21 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr HI 30 Apr; max 12 HI 10 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr widespread 26 Apr; max 8 StMC 6 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr Camden 2 May; max 67 DH 19 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** migrants DH 26 Apr, 14, 18 May (TC); arr WM 17 May.  
**Ovenbird:** arr Camden 26 Apr (RL), Reg record early.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr Skan 24 Apr; max 6 DeWitt 11 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Pratt's Falls 14 Apr; 2 Manheim 31 May, rarely reported HERK.  
**KENTUCKY WARBLER (R5):** Cazenovia 21-22 May (JR) and Clinton 24-25 May (MP).  
**CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R5):** Bvll 13 May (JB).  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr TR 2 May, early.

*The Kingbird* 2011 September; 61 (3)

**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr widespread 26 Apr.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr SFNS 8 May; max 8 per day LOL.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Skan 10 May; max 3 DH 21 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr LOL 11 May.

#### **TOWHEES - WEAVER**

**E. Towhee:** arr LOL 9 Apr; max 24 GLSP 24 Apr; Old Forge 22 Apr. unusual.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 40 Durhamville 23 Mar; last Hamilton 7 May.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** Earlville 15 Mar (KJ!), likely wintered; arr Skan 7 Apr; max 145 DH 12 May.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** SFNS 2, 20 May; GLSP 22 May; DH 23 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr GLSP 9 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr LOL 9 Apr, max 3 per day LOL.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr LOL 7 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Hastings 30 Apr; 2 Split Rock 8 May; max 3 Richland 20 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 20 Mar; max 5 per day to 18 Apr; last W Winfield 28 Apr.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 4/day LOL 10-21 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr WM 7 Apr.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 60 Camden 26 Apr.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** DH after 1 Mar, likely wintered; arr widespread 27 Apr; max 14 SB 14 May.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 70 Salisbury 19 Apr.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Bvile 30 Apr (JB), Reg record early; max 58 LOL 12 May.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr 26 Apr; max 31 DH 12 May.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr 5 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr DH 26 Apr (SC), Reg record early; max 137 DH 12 May.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr 16 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 2 Tully 3 Mar; max 500 CM 29 Apr.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Camden 26 Apr; max 6 DH 14 May; Kast Bridge 31 May. unusual.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr widespread 26 Apr; max 438 DH 12 May.  
**Purple Finch:** max 240 DH 20 Apr.  
**Com. Redpoll:** max 440 DH 4 Apr; last Georgetown 5 May.  
**Hoary Redpoll:** max 2 Erieville 30 Mar; last DH 9 Apr.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 730 DH 13 May.  
**Am. Goldfinch:** max 450 DH 13 May.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** max 15 Erieville 3 Apr; last Camden 3 May.

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## **REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE**

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Spring was exceptionally wet, and I heard quite a few complaints about the cold as well, although temperatures averaged above normal for much of the season. Early on it was a bit chilly, as Watertown's mean temperature for March was 29.8°F, or 1.1° below normal. The 3.4" of precipitation that fell in March was just 0.6" above normal, but April and May were very wet. Slightly more than six inches of rain fell during each of the period's last two months, and rainfall totals were 3.0" and 2.9" above average for April and May, respectively. April's mean temperature of 44.9° was 1.2° above normal, and May was even warmer, with an average temperature of 58.9°, or 2.5° above normal.

Migrants arrived to the Region in a somewhat eccentric manner, continuing a pattern that began in mid- to late February with the appearance of the first *The Kingbird* 2011 September; 61 (3)

Great Blue Herons and Killdeer. For many species that typically arrive between March and mid-April, a few individuals appeared this year on typical or early dates, sometimes remarkably early (such as an American Bittern on 23 March) but with additional individuals trickling in over an extended period so that many of these species remained scarce until well after their usual mean arrival dates. The result was that most observers felt that through at least the middle of April migration was very late. This pattern changed abruptly on the night of 26-27 April, when a warm front brought temperatures in the 80s and a flood of new arrivals. This warm front and the associated wave of first of season species was similar to late April events from the previous two years, but the timing was such that several species set new record early arrival dates for Region 6. Early arrivals were the norm for the remainder of the season.

Of the 93 species that are tracked annually to monitor mean arrival dates statewide, reasonably accurate dates were noted for 89 species this spring, with an overall mean arrival date of 25 April, five days earlier than the long-term mean, but one and two days later than the mean arrival dates for 2010 and 2009, respectively. Of these species, 67 arrived more than one day earlier than average, 23 arrived within one day of average, and just 10 arrived more than one day later than average. Species that set or tied record early arrival dates include American Bittern, Osprey, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Caspian Tern, Least and Great Crested Flycatchers, Chestnut-sided and Cape May Warblers, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Scarlet Tanager.

On the flip side, a number of wintering species lingered to fairly late dates, including good numbers of Long-tailed Ducks, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye well into May. Most notable among lingering species was an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye in the St. Lawrence River at Ogdensburg on 22-24 April, missing the record late date for the State by just two days. Another Barrow's Goldeneye was near Massena in early March. Also present unusually late were Bohemian Waxwings, which were present in modest numbers all winter but increased dramatically during April. On 9 April I spent a fair amount of time trying to count Bohemians in a large flock near the St. Lawrence River in Massena and finally came up with an estimate of 1130 individuals, which appears to be the second highest tally ever recorded in New York State. A flock observed in Canton on 30 April represents the latest date this species has been observed in Region 6, although about two weeks shy of the late date for New York.

Among the season's highlights was a female Spruce Grouse in Parishville at a site where this species had not been previously recorded. The grouse was initially observed by the patrons of a local bar as it wandered along the nearby roadside and even in the bar's parking lot. Melissa Burchard photographed the grouse near the bar (see page 241) and showed the photos to Carol Cady, who notified Glenn Johnson and Angie Ross. Glen and Angie eventually found a nest with four eggs, but the nest was abandoned a few days later and the fate of the adult is unknown.

There were few true rarities reported this spring, topped by the continuing Townsend's Solitaire on Point Peninsula, which successfully over-wintered and



was last seen on 20 March. On 19 March a Ross's Goose was picked out of a low-flying flock of Snow Geese over Canton. David Wheeler observed two Sandhill Cranes near Lakeview WMA in March, where this species has summered for several consecutive years and is suspected to breed, although nesting has not been documented.

Notable finch reports included a flurry of late season Hoary Redpolls and one interesting Red Crossbill report. Several observers diligently sorted through the redpolls at their feeders all winter with limited or no success picking out any Hoary Redpolls until March, when redpoll numbers increased generally and many flocks suddenly included at least 1-2 obvious Hoarys. Such was the case at my feeders, where a "Greater" Common Redpoll also appeared on 6 March. Red Crossbills were scarce in the Region, but may have nested in a few red pine plantations in the Adirondacks and on Fort Drum. Matt Young recorded songs from a flock of 12 Red Crossbills near Sevey's Corners and subsequently identified call types consistent with crossbill Types 1, 2, and 10.

Given the general paucity of birders in Region 6, it's worth mentioning the comings and goings of a few. Mike Stewart, who found the Townsend's Solitaire this past winter, is an active duty soldier and is now serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan. I'm sure I am not the only one wishing him well and looking forward to his return to New York. This past year Joan Collins moved back to Region 7, although I'm sure we'll still hear from her about birds in the St. Lawrence County portion of Adirondack Park. Still, her recent move goes a long way in explaining the lack of good arrival date information for birds that breed in the St. Lawrence County portion of the Adirondacks but are otherwise hard to find in Region 6. And finally, a welcome addition: Tony Shrimpton has started spending more time afield in Region 6, especially near Lake Ontario, where he is having some success in finding interesting shorebirds, among the most under-reported group of birds in the Region.

For the season I received reports of 230 species, which is the highest species tally for any season since I began compiling the Region 6 report. This total is certainly the result of a modest increase in observer effort in the Region, and there is certainly much room for further increases. Region 6 remains something of a frontier for birding in New York State, and there is no telling what might be found with better coverage. This season's increase in coverage is the clear high point of the spring.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Warburton, David Wheeler, Tom & Eileen Wheeler, Matthew Young; Hans van der Zweep.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, T Massena, STLA; CB – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; CV – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; GPSP – Grass Point SP; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; LB – Lisbon Town Beach, STLA; LGI – Little Galloo Is.; LPd – Leonard Pond trail, T Colton, STLA; LPSP – Long Point SP; LWMA – Lakeview WMA; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; MP – Montario Pt., T Ellisburg, JEFF; PRWMA – Perch River WMA, JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RWSP – Robert G. Wehle SP; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SSC – South Sandy Creek trail, T Ellisburg, JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence River; TMP – Three Mile Point, T Chaumont, JEFF; TP – Tibbet's Pt., T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; WBSP – Westcott's Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** widespread arr 10-11 Mar; 5000-7000 over FD 15 Mar; 2 rafts each 5000+ L Ontario off MP and WBSP 25 Mar.

**ROSS'S GOOSE (R6):** 1 in flock Snow Geese Canton 19 Mar.

**Brant:** no reports.

**Trumpeter Swan:** arr PRWMA 14 Mar.

**Tundra Swan:** 60 LWMA 25 Mar.

**Wood Duck:** arr Watertown 10 Mar.

**Gadwall:** arr BI 5 Mar; max 38 LWMA 25 Mar.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr BI 5 Mar; max 80 LWMA 25 Mar.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 340 ULLWMA 3 Apr.

**Mallard:** max 295 ULLWMA 3 Apr.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr FD 5 Apr.

**N. Shoveler:** arr TMP 18 Mar; max 9 Lowville 5 May.

**N. Pintail:** arr TMP 19 Mar; max 270 Lowville 2 Apr.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr Ellisburg 20 Mar; max 240 Lowville 2 Apr.

**Canvasback:** 2 PtPen 19 Mar; FD 5 Apr; only reports.

**Redhead:** max 60 TP 25 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 410 LWMA 25 Mar.

**Greater Scaup:** max 900 PtPen 11 Mar.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 45 LWMA 25 Mar.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 65 ED 23 Mar; last 2 ED 20 May.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 1000+ CV 20 Mar; last 14 ED 20 May.

**Bufflehead:** max 100 Ray's Bay T Henderson 9 Apr; last PRWMA 13 May.

**Com. Goldeneye:** last 11 SLR Ogdensburg 8 May.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** BI 7 Mar (HVZ); ad m SLR Ogdensburg 22-24 Apr (JB).

**Hooded Merganser:** arr at FD nesting areas 3 Mar.

**Com. Merganser:** small groups imm present SLR through May.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 1600 TP 16 Mar; migrating SLR thru 15 May.

**Ruddy Duck:** 2 LWMA 28 May, nesting pair?

**Spruce Grouse:** ad m MM 28 May; ad f T Parishville late May, new location, *intro* (M. Burchard, GJ, AR).

**Red-throated Loon:** RWSP 10 Apr, only report.

**Com. Loon:** arr PtPen 30 Mar.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr PRWMA 10 Mar, early.

**Horned Grebe:** arr PtPen 11 Mar; max 8 SLR Ogdensburg 16 Apr; last SLR Ogdensburg 8 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** SLR Massena 7 May; max 5 WHWMA 7 May; 2 ULLWMA 8 May; 2 ED 20 May.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 2884 nests LGI 25 May.

**Am. Bittern:** arr FD 23 Mar (JB), Reg record early; next report PRWMA 7 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** arr PRWMA 14 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** arr at nesting sites 19-20 Mar.

**Great Egret:** 3 Clayton 6 Apr; 3 Potsdam 21 May; WHWMA 27 May.  
**Green Heron:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr PRWMA 22 Apr; max 151 Gull Is. 31 May.  
**Turkey Vulture:** arr Gouverneur 4 Mar; max 125 in single group Canton 25 Mar.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr ULLWMA 1 Apr (JB), Reg record early.  
**Bald Eagle:** 8 LB 12 Mar; 22 LPSP 24 Mar; many reports 1-5 individuals thru.  
**N. Harrier:** arr PtPen 11 Mar.  
**N. Goshawk:** FD 19 Apr, 26 May; only reports.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Henderson 17 Mar.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr FD 12 Apr.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last FD 24 May.  
**Golden Eagle:** FD 4 Mar; Lowville 2 Apr; ad Dekalb 22 May.  
**Am. Kestrel:** arr Denmark 2 Apr.  
**Merlin:** widespread nesting reported from all areas R6; still increasing.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** Canton 2 Mar (MG); nesting pairs Payne Lake, Ogdensburg bridge, and Long Sault dam.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr FD 29 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr PRWMA 4 May.  
**Com. Moorhen:** arr PRWMA 15 Apr; max 22 PRWMA 13 May.  
**Am. Coot:** 2-4/day PRWMA Apr.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 2 Ellisburg 23 Mar (DW), in area where nesting suspected recent years; PRWMA 4 May (JB).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 Ellisburg 24 May; Massena 27 May; calling over MM 30 May; only reports.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 2 Dekalb 11 May (JB), Reg record early; max 10 SSC 13 May.  
**Killdeer:** arr Philadelphia 17 Feb (JB), Reg record early; widespread arr 10-15 Mar.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** no reports before 7 May; arr missed because of poor coverage?  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Ellisburg 22 Apr; max 5 SSC 12 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 3 PRWMA 7 Apr; max 30 Ellisburg 6 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 50 Ellisburg 6 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr FD 18 Apr; CV 27 Apr; Massena 7 May not seen again; max 4 displaying males FD 9 May; only reports.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 9 SLR Massena 27 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 7 arr Dekalb 11 May; max 40 SSC 13 May.  
**Dunlin:** 2 Ellisburg 24 May; 19 SLR Massena 27 May; only reports.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 5 CV 16 May, only report.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr CB 30 Mar.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr RWSP 15 Mar; max 36 peenting m on 10-stop survey route FD 25 Apr.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 5 SLR Ogdensburg 9 Apr; 10 SLR Ogdensburg 24 Apr; few reports.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** widespread arrival 4 Mar.  
**Iceland Gull:** ad TP thru 20 Apr.  
**Herring Gull:** max at breeding colonies 91 Gull Is 11 May; 17 nests Blanket Is 11 May.  
**Caspian Tern:** 2 arr PRWMA 7 Apr (JB), Reg record early; 1934 nests LGI 25 May.  
**Black Tern:** arr PtPen 7 May; max 64 PRWMA 14 May.  
**Com. Tern:** arr SLR Ogdensburg 23 Apr; about 100 foraging below Robert Moses Power Dam 27 May.

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Osceola 29 May, only report.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr FD 17 May, scarce.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** Theresa 21 May.  
**Short-eared Owl:** Leray 9 May, at historic nesting location, not found again.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr FD 9 May; Gouverneur 28 May.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr FD by 30 Apr.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Philadelphia 28 Apr.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Ellisburg 6 May.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** arr Ogdensburg 8 Apr.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr FD 2 May.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** increasing near L Ontario.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Canton 9 Apr.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Esker Trail SUNY-ESF Ranger School T Fine 10 May.  
**N. Flicker:** many over-wintered; presumed migrants arr 5 Apr.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Colton 21 May; migrant FD 28 May; only reports.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Leyden 8 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 5 LPd 21 May; 2 migrants LWMA 31 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr FD 18 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Huevclton 14 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr FD 27 Apr (JB), Reg record early.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr FD 26 Mar.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr FD 27 Apr (JB), Reg record early.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**N. Shrike:** last FD 15 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Dekalb 1 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr FD 26 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr FD 29 Apr.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** Partridge Run Golf Course  
 Canton 16 May (JB), only report.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr FD 11 May.  
**Purple Martin:** arr ICNC 24 Apr.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr ICNC 3 Apr; max 2000 Pt  
 Salubrious 17 Apr.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Ogdensburg 16  
 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr PRWMA 7 Apr.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** ICNC 8 Apr, rare at this  
 location.  
**Carolina Wren:** 2 continued from winter  
 Canton thru 17 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr CV & FD 27 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** arr CV 9 Apr.  
**Sedge Wren:** no reports.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr PRWMA 4 May.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr FD 25 Apr; 6 other  
 reports.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr CV 9 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr FD 15 Apr.  
**E. Bluebird:** 6 PtPen 4 Mar & 3 RWSP 15 Mar,  
 prob winter survivors; arr Canton 26 Mar.  
**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:** continued PtPen  
 to 20 Mar (J. Brin, mob).  
**Veery:** arr Massena 7 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** ED 20 May; few reports.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr ICNC 24 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr FD 29 Apr.  
**N. Mockingbird:** Lyme 14 Apr; SBSP 20 May;  
 Alexandria 21 May; FD 28 May; more than  
 usual.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr FD 19 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** few reports.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 110 RMSP 4 Mar; 110  
 Louisville 25 Mar; 162 BI 5 Apr; max 1130  
 Massena 9 Apr (JB); 100+ Watertown 12-13  
 Apr; 40+ Potsdam 21 Apr; last 35 ICNC 30 Apr  
 (JB, mob), late.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** last LB 20 Mar.  
**Snow Bunting:** singing m FD 3 Mar; no reports  
 after 11 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr FD 2 May.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Dekalb 1 May.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** territory in same FD  
 location 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr SBSP 7 May.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** CV 12 May (Judi  
 LeTendre), only report.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr FD 28 Apr.  
**N. Parula:** arr Low's Lake 7 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr FD 27 Apr (JB),  
 Reg record early.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr SUNY-ESF Ranger  
 School T Fine by 10 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr ICNC 29 Apr  
 (MBW), Reg record early; 2 Canton 12 May; FD  
 12 May; 3 Potsdam 18 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr FD 28 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr ICNC 16 Apr;  
 max 75 ICNC 30 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr FD 27  
 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr FD 2 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr FD 12 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr FD 9 May.  
**"Yellow" Palm Warbler:** many singing m MM  
 19 Apr.  
**"Western" Palm Warbler:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 4 FD 12 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr GPSP 14 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Dekalb 1 May; ICNC 8  
 May apparently migrating; 5 Colton Rd Dekalb  
 14 May; 2 Harts Flat Rd Theresa 21 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr FD 27 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr FD 2 May.  
**Ovenbird:** arr FD 27 Apr (JB), Reg record  
 early.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr FD 26 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 2 Theresa 21 May,  
 only report.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr FD 19 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr FD 27 Apr (JB), Reg  
 record early.  
**Hooded Warbler:** Ellisburg 20 May; 3 T  
 Osceola 29 May known nesting location.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr FD 19 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr FD 12 May.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr FD 12 Apr.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Whalen Park Louisville  
 1 May.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Watertown 9 Apr;  
 scarce until after 20 Apr.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr FD 9 May; migrant  
 SSC 20 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr FD 11 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr FD 11 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr FD 15 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr FD 2 May.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** arr FD 5 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr CV 9 Apr.  
**Song Sparrow:** arr CV 12 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 2 Fox Marsh Colton 10  
 May; 2 migrants SSC 20 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr CV & FD 1 Apr.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Leyden 30 Apr.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** singing in LWMA 31 May, late migrant or breeder?

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Dekalb 1 May (JB), Reg record early.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr FD 3 May.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Canton 13 May.

**Bobolink:** arr Canton 30 Apr.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr Canton 5 Mar.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr RWSP 18 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr PRWMA 20 Mar.

**Com. Grackle:** arr Lyme 14 Mar.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr CV 9 Apr.

**Orchard Oriole:** PiPen 20 May, only reliable site R6?

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr FD 2 May.

**Purple Finch:** scarce before 19 Apr; max 49 CV 26 Apr.

**Red Crossbill:** 12 Colton 4 Mar, included Types 1, 2, & 10 based on spectrographic analysis of songs (MY).

**Com. Redpoll:** "Greater" Canton 6 Mar; last CV 20 Apr.

**Hoary Redpoll:** 1-2 per day at several Canton feeders 6-27 Mar (TL, JB, CC).

**Pine Siskin:** 25-30/day Canton to late Mar; scattered reports 1-12/day to 17 May.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 3+ Sodom SF 9 Apr; 7-8 Watertown 12 Apr; 2 FD 25 Apr; only reports outside Adirondacks.



## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Weather in the spring of 2011 was one for the record books, with record flooding across the Region due to a wet winter and an even wetter spring. Precipitation averaged 4-6" above normal for all three months in the Champlain Valley and the Adirondacks, making it the wettest April and May on record. April rainfall set records, with totals ranging from 4.5" in Peru to 8.7" in Old Forge and Lake Placid, only to be followed by an even wetter May, where rainfall totals ranged from 7.5" in Tupper Lake and 8.3" in Old Forge to 9.1" in Peru. The last major snowstorm of the month occurred on 6 March, dumping 24" in Tupper Lake and 37" in Ellenburg Depot. As would be expected, the culmination of rain and melting snow brought lakes and rivers across the Region to record high levels, bringing widespread flooding and causing millions of dollars in damage. Lake Champlain reached its highest level of 103.2' feet on 6 May and remained above flood stage through the end of May. Temperatures ranged 1-2° below average for the month of March, with the warmest temperatures being in the mid-50s on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. In contrast, April temperatures ran 1-2° above average, with temperatures reaching the 70s near the end of the month. May was an average month for the Champlain Valley, but for the Adirondacks it ranked as the sixth warmest May on record, with temperatures ranging 4.5° above normal and reaching the mid-80s in the final days of the month.

The record flooding created challenges for birders trying to access some of the major spring migration sites, but persistence paid off with good numbers for *The Kingbird* 2011 September; 61 (3)

species diversity and rarities being reported for the season. The high water levels may have played a part in aiding the diversity of shorebirds and waders that made a brief stop in the Champlain Valley this year. Notable May migration sightings at the Chazy Riverlands include: a Little Gull on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, a Glaucous Gull on the 28<sup>th</sup>, a breeding male Wilson's Phalarope on the 28<sup>th</sup>, a record late Eurasian Wigeon on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and a Whimbrel on the 28<sup>th</sup>, which is only the second spring record for this species in the Region. A good number of shorebirds made stops in the Adirondacks as well, the highlights being 30 Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs in Tupper Lake on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 30 Short-Billed Dowitchers in Lake Placid on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Waterfowl also came through the Region in strong numbers that peaked in mid- to late March. Highlights from Ausable Point included record early Northern Shovelers on the 12<sup>th</sup>, a male Ruddy Duck on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and 12 Canvasbacks and nine Redheads in the 27<sup>th</sup>. Other notable waterfowl sightings include four Long-tailed Ducks on Long Lake on 5 April, Barrow's Goldeneye at Crown Point on 2 April, and a Red-breasted Merganser at Point Au Roche on 7 May.

The Crown Point banding station opened on 6 May for its 36<sup>th</sup> season as scheduled, with Gordon C. Howard, Bob Wei, and Gary Lee faithfully keeping the station going despite record high flooding on Lake Champlain. A total of 518 individuals were banded representing 58 species, including 15 warbler species and 16 individuals that had been captured in previous years. The oldest recapture was a Black-capped Chickadee, first banded in 2006 and now 5 years and 11 months old. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly a Grasshopper Sparrow, which became the 101<sup>st</sup> species banded at the station. Other notable birds that were banded include two Orchard Orioles, six Tennessee Warblers, one Mourning Warbler, one Prairie Warbler, and a record low 10 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, which usually number in the hundreds.

The spring also saw the last days of the winter invasions of redpolls, waxwings, and grosbeaks. Common Redpolls remained in good numbers through mid-March in most of the Region, but persisted in the hundreds at a feeder station in Long Lake until mid-April, with the last birds departing on 6 May. Hoary Redpolls were reported at a number of locations, and a "Greater" Redpoll was identified at a feeder on Cumberland Head on 6 March. Bohemian Waxwings persisted in flocks numbering in the hundreds in March that tapered off the first week of April, with a final report of 25 at Cumberland Head on 6 April. Evening Grosbeaks were reported in good numbers through April, with a maximum of 70 at Long Lake and a last record of four birds at Lake Alice on 30 April. Absent for much of the winter at most bird feeders, Purple Finches and American Goldfinches began visiting birdfeeders again in the last week of April.

Additional highlights include a Black-billed Cuckoo in Bellmont on 30 May and Clay-colored Sparrows in Lake Placid and at Lake Alice. A day of birding in Fort Covington on 29 May, a lesser known birding area on the edge of Franklin County, added a number of species that were not reported elsewhere in the Region, including Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, and an impressive 27 Black Terns.

The season total was 218 species, an excellent number that just misses the record of 219 species that was set in 1997.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CR – Chazy Riverlands; Ferd – Ferd's Bog; FC – Fort Covington; LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long Lake; Mass – Massawepie Mire; Plat – Plattsburgh; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; SB – Sabattis Bog; SL – Saranac Lake; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; TL – Tupper Lake; WM – Wickham Marsh WMA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 1000 PtR 18 Mar; 800 AP 27 Mar (DR); 1 CH 29 May (NO), last.

**Wood Duck:** arr 3 AP 3 Mar (BK, CM), early CLIN; max 48 FC 29 May (M&LL).

**Gadwall:** arr 20 AP 20 Mar (DR).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** CR 29 May (JO), late CLIN, only report.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr PtR 8 Mar (NO); max 2 AP 21 Mar (BS).

**Am. Black Duck:** 9 LL 5 Apr (JC); max 40 FC 29 May (M&LL).

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr LL 11 Apr (JC); max 8 FC 29 May (M&LL).

**N. Shoveler:** arr 4 CH 12 Mar (BK), early CLIN; 2 FC 29 May (M&LL).

**N. Pintail:** arr 8 CH 14 Mar (BK); PtR 18 Mar (NO); AP 28 Mar (DR); CP 2 Apr (SO, AB).

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 6 AP 19 Mar (BK);

max 7 AP 28 Mar; TL 9 Apr; LP 28 Apr.

**Canvasback:** arr AP 20 Mar (BK, CM); max 12 AP 27 Mar (DR).

**Redhead:** arr AP 15 Mar (BK); max 9 AP 29 Mar (DL).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 400 AP 27 Mar (DR); TL 9 Apr (JC).

**Greater/Lesser Scaup:** 900 WM 20 Mar (DR); 900 AP 29 Mar; max 1000 Kings Bay 26 Apr.

**Lesser Scaup:** AP 13 Mar (BK, CM); 5 LL 5 Apr (JC).

**White-winged Scoter:** 2 CR 25 May (JO).

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 4 LL 5 Apr (JC); CH 9 Apr (JO), early CLIN.

**Bufflehead:** max 50 AP 7 Apr (NR); 2 LL 4 Apr (JC).

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 500 WM 20 Mar (DR); 20 TL 2 Apr (JC).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** CP 2 Apr (SO&AB), only report.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 20 AP 27 Mar (DR).

**Com. Merganser:** max 65 SP 20 Mar (DR).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 PtR 7 May (JH), only report.

**Ruddy Duck:** AP 19 Mar (BK), early CLIN.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** LA 30 Apr (JO).

**Com. Loon:** arr 4 AP 27 Feb; LL 8 Apr (JC); SL 13 Apr (BM).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr 2 AP 21 Mar; max 7 FC 29 May (M&LL).

**Horned Grebe:** CH 22 Mar (BK), early rec CLIN; 2 Treadwell Bay 25 Apr (HK).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Chazy 24 Apr (BK); CR 25 May (JO), record late CLIN.



**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr AP 21 Mar (WS).  
**Am. Bittern:** arr LP 22 Apr (LM); PS 27 Apr (BM); LA 1 May (BK, CM); CH 8 May (NO).  
**Least Bittern:** FC 29 May (M&LL).  
**Great Blue Heron:** arr 18 Mar PtR (NO); AP 19 Mar (BK).  
**Great Egret:** arr CR 24 Apr (BK); LP 24 Apr; PtR 9 Apr; Jay 3 May FC 29 May.  
**Green Heron:** arr PtR 30 Apr (JH); max 3 LA 1 May (JO).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** FC 29 May (M&LL).  
**Turkey Vulture:** arr CH 27 Mar (CH); Wilmington 27 Mar (WS).

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr 29 Apr Scomotion Creek (NO); AP 30 Apr (DL).  
**Bald Eagle:** max 3 SL 28 May (GD).  
**N. Harrier:** Essex 12 Mar (J&PT); CR 10 Apr (BK&CM), CP 7 May (GL).  
**Cooper's Hawk:** CH 25 Mar-8 May (BK); FC 29 May (M&LL).  
**N. Goshawk:** LL 7 Apr (JC); LL 9 May (JC).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Platts 6 Apr (DR); LA 7 Apr; Keene 24 Apr; PS 11 May; 2 FC 29 May.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr LL 27 Apr (JC); Rand Hill 27 Apr (JH); PS 27 Apr (BM).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 5 Essex 17 Mar (J&PT); AP 6 Apr (JO).  
**Am. Kestrel:** arr Willsboro 19 Mar (ETi); Keeseville 21 Mar (DR).  
**Merlin:** arr Wilmington 23 Mar (WS); LL 5 Apr (JC).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** arr Keene 11 Mar (J&PT); SL 13 Mar; CP 10 May; Plat 25 May; CR 29 May.  
**Virginia Rail:** 5 FC 29 May, only report.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 87 CR 29 May (JO); 12 CR 30 May (NO).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 83 CR 25 May (BK); 6 LP 16 May (LM).  
**Killdeer:** arr 2 Chazy 16 Mar (NO); 2 LP 16 May (LM).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr LP 27 Apr (LM).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** Riley Brook 14 May (BK, CM); BB 21 May (JC, SO).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr LP 27 Apr (LM); max 20 TL 6 May (RG); 16 Riley Brook 6 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 24 Apr CR (BK); max 45 CR 14 May (BK); 10 TL 6 May (RG).  
**Whimbrel:** CR 28 May (JO), 2<sup>nd</sup> spring record.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 9 CR 29 May (JO).  
**Sanderling:** CR 29 May (JO), 4<sup>th</sup> spring record.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr CR 14 May (BK); max 445 CR 30 May (BK).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 2 Riley Brook 10 May; max 30 CR 14 May (BK).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 4 CR 29 May (JO).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 3 CR 28 May (JO).  
**Dunlin:** arr 26 Apr CR (BK); max 27 CR 17 May (BK).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr CR 14 May (BK); max 30 LP 19 May (LM).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr LP 24 Apr (LM); Inlet 24 Apr (GL).  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr Wickham WMA 20 Mar (DR).  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 m CR 28 May (JO).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr 7 AP 6 Apr (JO), record early CLIN; max 89 CR 18 May (BK).  
**Little Gull:** CR 22 May (JO).  
**Glaucous Gull:** CR 28 May (JO), 3<sup>rd</sup> spring record, record late CLIN.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr 3 Plat 7 May (JO); CR 11 May thru (BK).  
**Black Tern:** 27 FC 29 May (M&LL).  
**Com. Tern:** arr 3 CR 3 May (BK); max 67 CR 17 May (BK).

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Bellmont 30 May (NR).  
**Great Horned Owl:** PtR 11 May (NR).  
**Short-eared Owl:** ad m CH 7 Mar (BK).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 9 Plat 29 May (NO).  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** Jay 21 May (JB); Port Kent 21 May (SL).  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Plat 7 May (JO).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr LL 3 May (JC); LP 3 May; Willsboro 4 May; Inlet 5 May.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** AP 15 Mar (BK), overwintered.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Keene 9 Apr (J&PT); 2 LL 9 Apr; AP 9 Apr.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** LL 15 Mar; 2 BB 24 Mar; SB 15 Apr; Ferds 20 May; SSP 30 May.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Vanderwacker Mt 13 May (JC); Bellmont 29 May (NR).  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr LL 10 May (JC); CH 29 May (NO).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Browns Tract 18 May (MO); Mass 22 May (AB).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr LP 20 May (LM).  
**Willow Flycatcher:** FC 29 May (M&LL); Dickinson Ctr 29 May (AN).  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr LA 7 May (JO); LL 9 May (JC).  
**E. Phoebe:** arr CH 8 Apr (NO); Wilmington 8 Apr (WS); Keene 8 Apr (MMc).  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Dickinson Ctr 8 May (AN); CH 16 May (NO).

**E. Kingbird:** arr CP 12 May; Reagan Flats 12 May; CH 16 May.  
**N. Shrike:** LP 13 Mar (LM); LP 20 Mar (LL); SB 24 Mar (JC); LP 24 Apr, last.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr LL 26 Apr (JC).  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr LA 1 Apr (BK&CM).  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr LA 18 May (JO); SL 28 May (AB).  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr LL 13 May (JC).  
**Gray Jay:** 3 SB 4 Mar; 3 Ferd 14 Mar; Browns Tract 18 May; 2 Mass 28 May; max 6 Shingle Shanty 28 May (JP).  
**Horned Lark:** CR 15 Mar (DL); LL 5 Apr (JC); Chazy 12 May (BK).  
**Purple Martin:** 2 FC 29 May (M&LL).  
**Tree Swallow:** arr Wilmington 8 May (WS).  
**Bank Swallow:** arr 8 PtR 30 Apr (JH).  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr LA 7 May (JO); max 22 Reagan Flats 12 May (RS).  
**Barn Swallow:** arr CR 9 Apr, early rec CLIN.  
**Boreal Chickadee:** 2 BB 9 Apr (BW); 2 SSP 28 May (JP).  
**Tufted Titmouse:** 2 Keene 24 Mar (MMc); 3 Port Kent 25 Apr (DR); 2 FC 29 May (M&LL).  
**Carolina Wren:** CH 8 Apr thru (NO); Plat 7 May (JO).  
**House Wren:** arr Pt R 30 Apr (JH); SL 14 May (AB).  
**Winter Wren:** arr LL 11 Apr (JC).  
**Marsh Wren:** 6 FC 29 May (M&LL).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr CH, LL, PS & LP 27 Apr.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Dickinson Ctr 29 Apr (AN).  
**Veery:** arr 8 May Dickinson Ctr (AN).  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** Whiteface Mt 21 May (JC&SO).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Ferd 18 May (MO).  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr SB 15 Apr (JC).  
**Wood Thrush:** arr LA 7 May (JO); LL 11 May (JC); SL 12 May (RS).  
**Gray Catbird:** arr LA 1 May (JO), record early CLIN.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr PtR 28 Apr (JH); Mass 28 May (JC).  
**Am. Pipit:** 9 PtR 13 May.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** max 600 Essex 12 Mar; 300 LA 19 Mar; 80 Peru 27 Mar; 75 CH 28 Mar; 100 CP 2 Apr; 25 CH 6 Apr, last.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 28 CH 27 Apr (NO).

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 10 PtR 10 Mar (NO).  
**Snow Bunting:** 5 Chazy 2 Mar (BK&CM).  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** LP 19 May (LM).  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** FC 19 May (M&LL).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Dickinson Ctr 1 May (AN); CP 21 May; LA 25 May; FC 29 May; PS 30 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr LA 30 Apr; Keene 7 May; LL 9 May.  
**N. Parula:** arr PS 7 May (BM).  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr PtR 29 Apr (NO).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Peru 7 Apr (LF).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr LP 1 May (LM).  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr L Pleasant 7 May (JDM); Dickinson Ctr 7 May (AN).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr LL 27 Apr (JC).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr LP, Keene, Dickinson Ctr 24 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr LL 27 Apr (JC).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Dickinson Ctr 22 Apr (AN), Reg record early.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Inlet 24 Apr (JC).  
**Prairie Warbler:** CP 14 May (GL).  
**Palm Warbler:** arr Mass 19 Apr (JC).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 8 LA 18 May (JO); 3 LP 19 May; 2 FC 29 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr CP 13 May (GL).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr PS 27 Apr (BM).  
**Am. Redstart:** arr LL 10 May (JC).  
**Ovenbird:** arr Plat 28 Apr (BK).  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr Rand Hill 30 Apr (JH), record early CLIN.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr Chazy 18 May (JH); 2 LP 19 May; 2 Mass 22 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr LA 30 Apr (JO), early rec CLIN.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr LA 18 May (JO).  
**Canada Warbler:** arr LL 11 May (JC).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr SL 22 Apr (AB); 2 Reagan Flats 12 May; CP 13 May.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** LP 24 Apr (LM), last  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Keene 20 Mar (MMc); 11 Apr LL.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** LA 19-22 May; LP 22 May (LM).  
**Field Sparrow:** 8 LA 30 Apr (JO, BK, CM), record early CLIN; Mass 28 May (JC).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** LP 11-22 Apr (LM); max 3 Riley Brook 16 Apr (BK, CM); SB 22 Apr (JC).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 2 LL 5 Apr (JC); max 6 LP 11 Apr (LM).  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** CP 12 May (GL).  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr LL 10 Apr (JC); 2 SL 8 Apr; Redford 14 Apr; max 7 SL 22 Apr (AB).  
**Song Sparrow:** arr CH 11 Mar (NO); Inlet 12 Mar (GL).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr SB 9 May (JC); PS 11 May; PtR 11 May; Ferd 18 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr PS 27 Apr (BM); PtR 30 Apr (JH).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr Belmont 11 Apr (NR).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Redford 5 Apr (DF), record early CLIN; Keene 23 Apr (MMc); max 16 Reagan Flats 12 May (RS), last.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Chazy 18 May (JH).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr LA 30 Apr (JO); Essex 1 May (ETi); Inlet 6 May (GL).  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr CP 12 May (GL); Plat 17 May (JH); Belmont 23 May (NR).  
**Bobolink:** arr CP 7 May (GL); max 8 Reagan Flats 12 May.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr Willsboro, LP, Keeseville 6 Mar.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Essex 2 Apr (AB & SO).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Keene 16 Apr (MMc); 2 LL 23 Apr; LP 24 Apr; Newcomb 27 Apr; max 58 LA 30 Apr; SB 7 May.

**Com. Grackle:** arr LP 6 Mar.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 2 CP 14 May (GL).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Plat 22 Apr (SJ).  
**Purple Finch:** LL 14 Apr (JC); Keene 20 Apr; LP 24 Apr; Plat 27 Apr.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** LP 10 Mar (LM); Gabriels 16 Apr (JS); 2 LA 30 Apr (JO).  
**Com. Redpoll:** 50 CH 6 Mar; max 400 LP 12 Mar (LM); 100 Inlet 7 Apr (GL); 100 LL 10 Apr (JC); 2 LL 6 May (JC), last.  
**COM. "GREATER" REDPOLL:** CH 6 Mar (BK).  
**HOARY REDPOLL (R7):** Piseco 2 Mar (LH); Inlet 5 Mar (GL); CH 11 Mar (BK); 3 LP 15 Mar (LM); LL 4 Apr (JC).  
**Pine Siskin:** LL 10 Apr (JC); Dickinson Ctr 23 Apr; Peru 7 May; LA 7 May, last.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 BB 24 Mar (JC); 5 Inlet 27 Mar (GL); 16 Dickinson Ctr 9 Apr (AN); max 70 LL 10 Apr (JC); 2 Essex 28 Apr (ETi); 4 LA 30 Apr (JO).

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## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Will Yandik**

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Spring 2011 was mild and wet. March ended with 1.3 inches more than average, with another inch and a half of rain above average for April, and finally an inch above average for May. Precipitation in most cases stretched out over several drizzly days rather than in strong downpours, although flooding did occur in some parts of the Region in April and May. Twenty days in May had either drizzle or rain showers. The grass grew fast and thick, and had farmers not leapt at the chance for early cuttings when the weather dried up in June, it would have been a good year for grassland nesting birds. The last frost occurred on 22 April, and May began a long moderating trend that brought above average temperatures that lasted beyond the spring season.

Brant made a good showing in the Region this spring. Moderately sized flocks from 70-500 moved through, mostly at night, during mid- to late May. Larry Federman recalls seeing them nearly everywhere in Greene County: "Around 8 p.m. the first of several large flocks were seen over the Hudson River in the Village of Catskill, Greene County—I estimated that flock at 200. Five minutes later, heading northwest from west of the Village of Catskill were another 300. Ten minutes later, as I approached the intersection of Rts 23A and

32, another flock of approximately 300 were heading north, in front of the eastern face of the Catskills.” Although not as widespread, Snow Geese also staged in the area in March, including a flock of 900 in Albany County. Area birders found Tundra Swans at three locations this season.

A relatively large single location maximum of eight Red-necked Grebes at Cocksackie Boat Launch is unusual for our Region. An early Great Egret showed up at Vosburgh’s Marsh in Greene County on 3 April.

The Region hosted two species of kites this spring: the first, a Swallow-tailed Kite described with good details, seen in Albany County, and the second, a pair of Mississippi Kites back at their nest site in the town of Root, Montgomery County. Please see previous issues of this publication for a detailed description of these birds, the first nesting record for Mississippi Kite in the State.

Rich Guthrie found two Sandhill Cranes in Catskill in mid-April, and area birders recorded Caspian Terns at four different locations this spring. They are often not recorded most years, even though several migrate up the Hudson River to breeding locations on the Great Lakes. Bill Lee reports that he found 12 Upland Sandpipers at a single location in Ames, Montgomery County, a large number not only for the Region, but for the State as well nowadays.

Overall, no clear trend emerges for non-passerine migration. Herons and shorebirds appeared slightly later than average, with the exception of snipe and woodcock which arrive regularly in the southern part of the Region the first week of March. Duck migration is so variable in our Region that it’s hard to parse out trends from the noise in any given year. Early passerines, such as kinglets, gnatcatchers, towhees, and Hermit Thrush arrived slightly early. A very strong push of neotropical migrants moved into the Region on the evenings of 27 and 28 April, nearly a week earlier than average. All species of swallows arrived early this spring. Most vireos and warblers in particular arrived early this spring.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamsen, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brauch, Alvin Breisch, Owen Brown, Gerry Colburn, Frank Conley, Bill Cook, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, David Gibson, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Don Grescens, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, Ken Harper, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club’s Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Eric Krantz, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Kelly McKay Matt Medler, Steve Mesick, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Jeff Nadler, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Ellen Pemrick, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Larry Rowland, John Saville, Susan Scheck, Scott Stoner, Vin Sturn, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Brad Walker, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, T. Lloyd Williams, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; BRH – Burnt-Rossman Hills SF, SCHO;  
BRU – T Brunswick, RENS; COH – T Cohoes, ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edwards,  
WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; LIV – T Livingston, COLU; NBA – T New  
Baltimore, GREE; PR – Partridge Run, ALBA; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 900 Five Rivers ALBA 12 Mar.

**Brant:** max 500 Catskill GREE 25 May, numerous evening migrants.

**Tundra Swan:** Stafford Bridge SARA 6-9 Mar; Ft Miller WASH 9 Mar; 3 Germantown 13 Mar.

**Wood Duck:** arr Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 4 Mar.

**Gadwall:** max 13 Crescent ALBA 13 Mar.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Collins L SCHE 13 Apr.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 25 Claverack COLU 15 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr VF 17 Apr.

**N. Shoveler:** max 3 Papsanec RENS 18 Mar.

**N. Pintail:** max 18 Claverack COLU 15 Mar.

**Canvasback:** max 250 Germantown COLU 15 Mar.

**Redhead:** max 9 Cheviot COLU 8 Mar.

**Greater Scaup:** max 5 Northumberland SARA 26 Mar.

**Surf Scoter:** Collins L SCHE 8-14 Apr.

**White-winged Scoter:** Sacandaga L FULT 21 May.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 6 COX Boat Launch 23 Apr.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Ft Miller WASH 12 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 5 Four-mile Pt GREE 5 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** Ft Miller WASH 20 Mar; Myosotis L SARA 21 May.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Saratoga Battlefield SARA 17 Mar; Old Chatham COLU 27 Mar; FtE 6 Apr; Austerlitz COLU 17 Apr.

**Ruffed Grouse:** Coeymans ALBA 31 Mar; Four-mile Pt GREE 1 Apr; Five Rivers ALBA 12 Apr.

**Red-throated Loon:** 2 Lock 7 SCHE 5 Apr; Collins L SCHE 6 Apr.

**Com. Loon:** max 8 Lock 7 SCHE Apr.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr 4-mile Pt GREE 15 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** arr Chatham COLU 15 Mar.

**Red-necked Grebe:** COX 3 Apr; max 8 COX Boat Launch 23 Apr.

**Great Cormorant:** Germantown COLU 15 Mar; last New Baltimore GREE 31 Mar.

**Am. Bittern:** arr COX grasslands 22 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** max 2 BCM 21 May.

**Great Egret:** Vosburgh Marsh GREE 3 Apr.

**Green Heron:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 25 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Catskill GREE 29 Apr.

**Black Vulture:** Livingston COLU 5 Mar.

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr Collins L SCHE 30 Mar.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Wolforts Roost Country Club ALBA 29 Apr (cBird, fide RG).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 2 Root MONT 22 May-thru (mob).

**N. Goshawk:** Austerlitz COLU 26 Mar;

Partridge Run ALBA 20 Mar; Saratoga SARA 21 May; Rensselaerville ALBA 27 May.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Brunswick RENS 4 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Rensselaer RENS 3 Apr.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** last Catskill GREE 13 Mar.

**Golden Eagle:** Brunswick RENS 4 Mar; COX 6 Mar.

**Merlin:** New Scotland ALBA 14 Apr; Albany 20 Apr; Brunswick RENS 28 Apr.

**Virginia Rail:** arr BCM 23 Apr.

**Sora:** arr RENS tech park 15 Apr.

**Com. Moorhen:** BCM 21 May.

**SANDHILL CRANE (R8):** 2 Catskill GREE 11 Apr (RG).

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr Wrights Loop SARA 19 May.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr Rensselaerville ALBA 12 May.

**Killdeer:** arr COX 5 Mar.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr Albany 17 Apr.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Clermont COLU 27 Apr.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Wrights Loop SARA 6 Apr.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Wrights Loop SARA 5 Apr (KH), Reg record early.

**Upland Sandpiper:** max 12 Ames MONT 30 Apr (BL).

**Dunlin:** 6 Papsanec RENS 14-16 May; 2 COX grasslands 25 May.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Burnt Hills ALBA 3 Mar.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr Livingston COLU 5 Mar.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr HR ALBA 5 Apr.

**Iceland Gull:** Cohoes ALBA 1-13 Mar.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** VF 17 Mar; 2 Coeymans ALBA 21 Mar.  
**Glaucous Gull:** Cohoes ALBA 1-13 Mar.  
**Caspian Tern:** Collins L SCHE 5 Apr (JN), Reg record early; Colonie ALBA 24 Apr; 3 Coeymans 4 May; Saratoga L SARA 24 May.  
**Black Tern:** arr L George WARR 14 May; Myosotis L SARA 15 May; Saratoga L SARA 21-4 May.  
**Com. Tern:** Saratoga L 21 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr VF 8 May.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr New Baltimore GREE 12 May.  
**Long-eared Owl:** Rensselaerville ALBA 6 Apr.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Blackhead Mt GREE 21 May.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr BCM 20 May.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** max 5 Saratoga SARA 21 May.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Brunswick RENS 27 Apr.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Brunswick RENS 26 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Saratoga Battlefield SARA 22 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Myosotis L SARA 21 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Partridge Run ALBA 1 May.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr Rensselaerville ALBA 24 Apr.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr BCM 27 Apr.  
**N. Shrike:** last Papsancee RENS 2 Apr.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** S Glens Falls WARR 30 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr BCM 27 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr VF 27 Apr.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr S Glens Falls WARR 27 Apr.  
**Purple Martin:** Saratoga L SARA 24 May.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr Ferry Drive SARA 13 Mar.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Germantown COLU 19 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr VF 17 Apr.  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 30 Ballston Spa SARA 24 May.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr Coeymans ALBA 7 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr Austerlitz COLU 29 Apr.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr BCM 22 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Meadowdale ALBA 8 Apr.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Claverack COLU 11 Apr.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Schodack RENS 4 May.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr Livingston COLU 26 Apr.

*The Kingbird* 2011 September; 61 (3)

**Gray Catbird:** arr Brunswick RENS 26 Apr.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Hillsdale COLU 19 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** Rensselaerville ALBA 11 May.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** max 40 COX 1 Mar; last VF 4 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 26 Apr.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 15 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr Galway SARA 26 Apr.  
**N. Parula:** arr Vosburghs Marsh GREE 26 Apr (RG), Reg record early.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 25 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr COX grasslands 26 Apr.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Catskill GREE 6 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr Brunswick RENS 11 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 27 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Clermont COLU 22 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Amsterdam MONT 28 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Brunswick RENS 27 Apr.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Clermont COLU 16 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 23 Apr.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr Ann Lee Pd ALBA 11 Apr.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Brunswick RENS 12 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 8 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** Schodack I RENS 11 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Greenport COLU 26 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr Papsancee RENS 27 Apr.  
**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R8):** Turkey Run WMA ALBA 27 Apr (DG).  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** 2 Coeymans ALBA 19 May; Deer Mt ALBA 21 May.  
**Ovenbird:** arr COX grasslands 26 Apr.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr Rotterdam SCHE 26 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 Apr.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr Hunter Mt GREE 15 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Copake COLU 30 Apr.  
**Hooded Warbler:** New Scotland ALBA 18 May; Thatcher Park ALBA 21 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Schodack RENS 12 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr Austerlitz COLU 7 May.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Taghkanic COLU 20 Mar.

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Voorheesville ALBA 20 Mar.

**Field Sparrow:** arr Hillsdale COLU 21 Mar.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Rensselaerville ALBA 23 Apr.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Livingston 20 Apr.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Saratoga Airport SARA 11 May.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Five-Rivers ALBA 4 May.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Claverack COLU 26 Apr.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Austerlitz COLU 26 Apr.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Chatham COLU 28 Apr.

**Bobolink:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 30 Apr.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr Saratoga SARA 30 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 10 VF 14 Mar; max 50 VF 23 Mar.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr Brunswick RENS 28 Apr.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Ann Lee Pd ALBA 16 Apr.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 2 Stephentown RENS 5 Mar; E Greenbush RENS 18 Mar.

**Com. Redpoll:** last SCHO 5 Apr.

**Pine Siskin:** max 3 Stillwater SARA 6 Mar.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 6 Saratoga 21 Apr.

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## REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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The spring was very wet but not as cool as everyone expected. The season started with temperatures in the teens on 2 March, with Poughkeepsie dipping to 10° F on 4 March. Temperatures quickly climbed and were in the seventies by 18 March. White Plains recorded 7.4" of precipitation in March mainly from two storms; both resulted in extensive flooding. A storm on 6 March dumped 2.8", and a storm from 10 to 11 March added 3.1". April continued wet, with 7.1" recorded for White Plains, 2.6" above normal. The last few days saw high temperatures into the lower eighties resulting in the month being 2° warmer than normal. This warm humid spell brought in many first arrivals. May was a mirror image of April. Half of the days had at least a trace of rain. Good migrant days were few and far between. Nearly 7" of rain fell in White Plains for May, and temperatures were 2° warmer than normal.

An early highlight of the season was a goose bonanza centered in the Black Dirt region of Orange County. It started on 2 March when John Haas, Rob Stone, and Bob Cotter noticed a huge flock of Snow Geese just east of the observation area for Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR. The flock was estimated between 2500 and 3000 birds. Rob Stone then found eight Greater White-fronted Geese just off Lower Road near Pine Island. He shortly found a ninth Greater White-fronted Goose at the Pine Island Turf Nursery. In addition, another flock of 3000 Snow Geese was at Missionlands Road. Nearly 10,000 Canada Geese were in the area. The next morning John Haas found nearly the same number of Canada and Snow Geese in the area, and five of the Greater White-fronted Geese. In addition, one "Blue" Snow Goose and a Cackling Goose were found along with some sort of hybrid goose and a leucistic Canada



Goose. The next day, with John and Rob keeping in touch with one another, they found at least twelve Greater White-fronted Geese in the area. After John left, Rob sifted through the massive Snow Goose flock that had resettled in the Turf Nursery and found a Ross's Goose. Later in the day Ken McDermott discovered a Barnacle Goose at the golf course in Pine Island and, along with his son Curt, observed it until nightfall.

The weekend then brought in many more observers. On Saturday, Canada and Greater White-fronted Geese numbers were down, but the number of Snow Geese at the Pine Island Turf Nursery rose to 8,000 with at least twenty-two of them blue morph. The highlights of the day were three Ross's Geese, including a rare blue morph individual found by Curt McDermott (see photo, page 244). In addition to the geese, a total of ten Tundra Swans were found between the turf nursery and the local golf course. The Barnacle Goose and three Cackling Geese were also found that day. On Sunday at least nine different Ross's Geese were observed by many, including the blue morph. Only three Greater White-fronted Geese were found and the Barnacle Goose was absent. Although out of state, it is worth mentioning that a Pink-footed Goose was present in nearby Bergen County, New Jersey during the same period. Heavy rains and flooding in the area then diminished the bonanza during the next few days.

Two months later, Rob Stone found five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks off Oil City Road at the Wallkill NWR on 23 May. A few other birders were able to view the birds that day. No leg bands were seen. The birds were later found just south of the area in New Jersey but returned to the New York side in the late evening. They were present in the area until 26 May.

Benjamin Van Doren found a shearwater, a possible Manx Shearwater, on 17 May while watching Long Island Sound from Read Sanctuary in Rye.

Four Sandhill Cranes were observed flying overhead in Rhinebeck on 12 April. A pair was off Houston Road in Goshen on 13 April, and Ken Witkowski and Jim Schlickerrieder spotted a pair flying over while viewing the Black-bellied Ducks at Wallkill on 24 May.

Arie Gilbert and the Queens County Bird Club had a Mississippi Kite at the deli fields at the Bashakill on 22 May. A good flight of north bound hawks occurred 21 April at Hook Mountain in Nyack. A total of 787 hawks were counted as migrants and included 712 Broad-winged Hawks and 45 Sharp-shinned Hawks. Jim Clinton reported a Swallow-tailed Kite on 2 May over Bulls Head Road and Centre Road in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County. It was heading southwest.

John Hass has been touting birding during south-southwest storms for years in Sullivan County. One such storm on 4 May certainly paid off. He hit the water areas first before the rains stopped. A Red-necked Grebe greeted him at Kiamesha Lake. Morningside Park revealed a Black Tern. At Neversink Reservoir seven Bonaparte's Gulls were found along with another Black Tern. A lone Bonaparte's Gull was at Swan Lake. Then it was on to the Bashakill, where a third Black Tern was found along with sixteen species of warblers highlighted by Tennessee and Cerulean Warblers.

The Varied Thrush found in late December in Wurtsboro stayed for the first three days in March to make the spring report.

Tait Johansson found a singing Dickcissel at Muscoot Farm in Somers on 22 May as he led a morning bird walk. The bird did take off and flew northwest; it could not be relocated. Another Dickcissel was found at Marshlands Conservancy on 29 May.

Ken McDermott photographed and documented an adult male European Goldfinch of unknown origin that first appeared on 21 February at a home feeder outside Pine Bush in Orange County. The bird stayed until 3 May.

Other notable species include: Eurasian Wigeon, American White Pelican, American Golden-Plover, Boat-tailed Grackle, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook; CPP – Croton Point Park; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; LNP – Lenoir Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 9 Pine I 2, 3 Mar (RSt); 12 Pine I 4 Mar; 3 Pine I 5 Mar; few Skinner Lane, Goshen NY 6-12 Mar (RSt).  
**Snow Goose:** 3500-5000 Wallkill NWF 2,3 Mar (JHaa, BC, RSt); blue-morph Pine I 3 Mar (JHaa); 8000, 22 blue morph Pine I 5 Mar (JHaa, KM); 800 Bashakill 12 Mar; Neversink Res 16 May.

**ROSS'S GOOSE (R9):** Pine Island 4 Mar (RSt); 3, one blue morph Pine Island 5 Mar (CM, JHaa); 9, one blue morph Pine Island 6 Mar (CM, JHaa, TB, KM); 5 Pine Island 7 Mar.  
**Brant:** 300 Bashakill 12 Mar; 1500 Norrie Pt 25 May, 6:00 - 7:40 PM.  
**BARNACLE GOOSE:** Pine I 4,5 Mar (KM, CM, JHaa).

**CAACKLING GOOSE (R9):** Pine I 3 Mar (JHaa); 3 Pine I 5 Mar (SSM).  
**Canada Goose:** 11000 Pine I 3 Mar (JHaa).  
**Tundra Swan:** 10 Pine I area 5 Mar (JHaa); 7 Skinner Ln, Goshen 5 Mar (KM), same birds from Pine I?; Fishkill 18 Mar.  
**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK:** 5 Wallkill NWR 23-26 May (RSt, KM, mob).  
**Wood Duck:** 200 Bashakill 4 Apr.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** Bashakill 3 Apr (JHaa), 2<sup>nd</sup> SULL record.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 6 Linear Park, Wurtsboro 27 Apr.  
**N. Pintail:** 150 Wallkill NWF 2 Mar.  
**Green-winged Teal:** 30 Pine I 5 Mar; 60 Tivoli Bay 22 Mar.  
**Redhead:** Bashakill 14-18 Mar; Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills SP 24-25 Mar.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 50 Ogden Mills & Ruth Livingston Mills SP 9 Mar; 55 Stissing L 12 Mar, 6 Apr.  
**Greater Scaup:** 120 EGR 4 Mar; 1-2 EGR 8, 12, 13 May.  
**Lesser Scaup:** 350 EGR 15 Mar.  
**Surf Scoter:** 60 EGR 5 Mar (TB); 2 Wolf Lake 3 Apr.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 400 EGR 5 Mar; Neversink Res 17 Apr; 9 Kiamasha L 15, 16 May.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** Bashakill 23 Mar; max 75 EGR 10 Apr.  
**Bufflehead:** 88 EGR 18 Mar.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 45 EGR 15 Mar.  
**Com. Merganser:** 1-3 CEIS 8, 11, 13, 20, 26 May.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** Wappinger L 2 Apr; Saugerties Lighthouse 18 Apr; 4-5 Beacon 26 Apr, 12 May.  
**N. Bobwhite:** Claryville 5 Mar, early Apr (CB).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** few reports from DUTC only.  
**Red-throated Loon:** max 15 EGR 10 Apr; Rye 2 May.  
**Com. Loon:** max 8 EGR 14 Mar; 2 EGR 18 May.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** few at Bashakill in May, returning after failed nesting in past two years due to flooding.  
**Horned Grebe:** 4 Bashakill 12 Mar; max 24 EGR 15 Mar; Millerton 17 Mar; Sylvan L 22 Mar; Tivoli Bay 22 Mar; Redwing P 22 Mar; 23 Kiamasha L 23 Apr; Saugerties Lighthouse 10, 18 Apr; Bashakill 14 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** Esopus Point 5 Mar; 3 EGR 14, 30, 31 Mar, 2, 3, 15 Apr; Bashakill 22 Mar; Bashakill 4 Apr; Kiamasha L May 4.  
**SHEARWATER, sp (R9):** Rye 17 May (BV), intro.

**N. Gannet:** 14 EGR 14 Mar; 33 EGR 15 Apr.  
**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** Saugerties 31 May (Hudson-Mohawk Birdline).  
**Am. Bittern:** Tivoli Bay 23, 26 Apr; Bashakill 24 Apr; 4 Bashakill 14 May; CIES 20 May.  
**Least Bittern:** MC 30 Apr; Thompson P 21 May; Bashakill 22 May.  
**Great Egret:** arr 18 Mar Rockland L; Millbrook 3 May AP; Bashakill 6, 14 Apr, 15 May; Wingdale 28 May E&BR.  
**Snowy Egret:** arr EGR 3 Apr.  
**Tricolored Heron:** Bashakill 28 Apr (JHaa), 2<sup>nd</sup> SULL record.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 23 EGR 9 Apr.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Rhinebeck 2 May (JCLi).  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Bashakill 22 May (AG), 4<sup>th</sup> SULL record.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 45 Hook Mt 21 Apr.  
**N. Goshawk:** Poughkeepsie 12 Mar.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr CEIS 12 Mar; Hook Mt 14 Apr; 712 Hook Mt 21 Apr.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** Wallkill NWF 2 Mar; 2 Red Hook 4 Mar; 4 Pine I 5 Mar.  
**Golden Eagle:** Thompson P 12 Mar; Stissing 18 Mar; Bashakill 20 Mar.  
**Clapper Rail:** MC 19, 20 May.  
**Virginia Rail:** 2-4 Thompson Pd 16 Apr thru; Bashakill 24 Apr;  
**Sora:** Bashakill 14 May, only report.  
**Com. Moorhen:** MC 14-15 Apr; 10 Bashakill 3 May; 6 Bashakill 22 May; higher numbers at Bashakill than last few years.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 4 flying over Hudson R, Rhinebeck 12 Apr (JClo); 2 Houston Rd, Goshen 13 Apr (KM); Wallkill NWR 24 May (KWJS).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 4 Skinner Lane, Goshen 22 May; 3 MC 23 May; 3 Red Hook 22 May.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** flyover Port Chester 20 May (JA).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 3 Rye 13 May.  
**Killdeer:** 3 Montgomery 2 Mar.  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** arr MC 17 Mar; 5 Rye 2 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** Saugerties and Iona I 19 Apr; 5 Bashakill 14 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** Bronx R 29 Apr.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 30 MC 8 Apr.  
**Willet:** EGR 27 Apr; MC 5, 6, 8, 19 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** MC 8 Apr; Pine Plains 1 May; Piermont Pier 15-24 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** Bluechip Farm 8 May; 3 Bluechip Farm 24 May.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 2 EGR 11 May; 6 EGR 13 May; 2 Piermont Pier 15-24 May.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 15 Piermont Pier 15-24 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** 2 MC 3 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Bashakill 22 May.

**Purple Sandpiper:** last 3 EGR 19 Apr.

**Dunlin:** MC 29 Apr; 4 Piermont Pier 15-24 May; 8 Wallkill NWR 23 May; 22 Wallkill NWR 24 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 3 Piermont Pier 15-24 May; 23 MC 19 May; 22 Wallkill NWR 23 May.

**Wilson's Snipe:** 6 CPP 5 Apr.

**Am. Woodcock:** MC 4 Mar; 8 Montgomery 8 Mar.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 10 EGR 12 Apr; 2 Yankee L 28 Apr; 14 Rye 2 May; 7 Neversink Res 4 May; Swan L 4 May; EGR 17 May.

**Laughing Gull:** 2 Stanfordville 20 Apr (AP); MC 5 May; 2 Staatsburg 8 May (StB, DGo).

**Glaucous Gull:** imm Rye 8 May (TB).

**Least Tern:** arr MC 30 Apr; 9 MC 5 May.

**Caspian Tern:** Bashakill 26 Apr (BS), 3rd SULL record.

**Black Tern:** Morningside Park May 4 (JHaa); Neversink Reservoir May 4 (JHaa); Bashakill May 4 (JHaa).

**Com. Tern:** 40 MC 2 May; 60 MC 8 May; Bashakill 22 May (JH).

**Forster's Tern:** arr MC 15 Apr (TG); 6 MC 8 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** 12 Aiello P. New Rochelle 20 Mar.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 7 May.

**Barn Owl:** 2 Tallman SP 14 May (TD, CH).

**Long-eared Owl:** 2 Piermont Pier 4 Mar; Piermont Pier 7-9 Mar.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Bashakill 11, 12 Mar; Westbrookville 13 May (JHaa, ABo).

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Mt Vernon 24 Apr.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr 30 May; 2 Dover Plains 4 May; 9 Bashakill area 14 May; Pine Plains 17 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 5 Weston Rd, New Paltz/Esopus town line mid May (MD); Yankee L 12-19 May (JHaa); Red Hook 22 May (MD).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Bashakill 7 May; CIES 12, 13 May; Doodletown Rd 14 May; Milan 20-21 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Wurtsboro 14 May; Thompson P 21 May; RNC 25 May; MC 26, 31 May; Sterling Forest 29 May; 3 Neversink Unique Area 27 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Bashakill 1 May (JH), Reg record early; 20 Bashakill 26 May.

**White-eyed Vireo:** arr Rockefeller SP 26 Apr; Stewart Buffer land, Coldenham 29 Apr; Poughkeepsie 3 May; CIES 6 May.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Stony Kill 10 May.

**Horned Lark:** 50 Pine 15 Mar.

**Purple Martin:** Rye 27 Apr; 2 Rockland Country Club 14 May (DC), first nesting in Rockland in many years.

**Tree Swallow:** 5 Pine I 4 Mar; 52 CPP 20 Mar.

**Marsh Wren:** Tivoli Bay 26 Apr.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Bashakill 16 May.

**VARIED THRUSH:** Wurtsboro 1-3 Mar (JHaa).

**Brown Thrasher:** DUTC 1-6 Mar, over wintered.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** 15 Freemont Center 2 Mar.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 24 Apr.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Linear Park, Wurtsboro 5, 7, 9 May; Harriman State Park 8 May; Bashakill 11 May; 6 Sterling Forest 11 May; 3 Ironwood Rd, Sterling Forest 14 May.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** Linear Park, Wurtsboro 5, 8 May; 2 Mine Road 28 May.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** Doodletown 26 Apr (MKr); Staatsburg 7, 8, 10 May (StB, DGo, DKr).

**Tennessee Warbler:** 9 Doodletown 15 May.

**N. Parula:** 20 Rockland L 3 May.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 28 Neversink Unique Area 27 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Tarrytown L 4 May; Bashakill 6 May; Rhinebeck 10 May; RNC 10 May; MC 19 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Bashakill 24 Apr (AA), Reg record early; many reports on 26 Apr; 26 Neversink Unique Area 27 May.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 85 Tibbett Brook park 26 Apr; 200 Rockland L 3 May.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Ashokan Res 17 Apr (FM); Larchmont Res 19 Apr (TG).

**Pine Warbler:** arr Kakiat P 17 Mar.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr 24 Apr.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Buttercup West 27, 29 Apr, 1, 3 May; 2 Rockefeller 6 May; Bashakill 7 May; Stony Kill 10 May; Vassar Fm 10 May; RNC 13, 20 May; Doodletown Rd 25 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Tarrytown 24 Apr; 2 Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Bashakill May 4; 15 Doodletown 15 May.

**Am. Redstart:** arr Buttercup Sanc 20 Apr (AP, mob), Reg record early; 30 Doodletown 15 May.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr 24 Apr.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 7 Apr.

**Kentucky Warbler:** Rockefeller 13-22 May (EM); Hunt-Parker Sanctuary, Bedford 24 May

(TJ); RNC 25 May (TB); 2 Rockefeller 30 May (EE).

**Mourning Warbler:** Reese P, Wappinger 3 May; Bashakill 7, 15 May; Rockefeller Preserve 13 Apr; Doodletown Rd 25 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr 24 Apr; Bashakill 7 May; 28 Doodletown 15 May; 3 North Castle 28 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Dennings Point **30 Apr** (H), Reg record early; Sarah Lawrence College, Yonkers 2 May.

**Canada Warbler:** arr Reese P, Wappinger **20 Apr** (KH), Reg record early.

#### **TOWHEES - WEAVERS**

**Vesper Sparrow:** Rockefeller P 4 Apr; 3 CPP 5 Apr; Tamarack Preserve 14 May; 2 Red Hook 21 May.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** CPP 15 Apr; Red Hook 21, 25 May.

**Nelson's Sparrow:** MC 24 May (BV).

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** 2 MC 20 May.

**Seaside Sparrow:** MC 29 Apr.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Millerton 17 Mar; Bashakill 4 May; Spring Valley 6 May; Sterling Forest 11 May; 7 Bashakill 11 May; 6 Hurleyville 11 May; Mount Vernon 12 May; Milan 21 May.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 114 Parksville 5 Apr.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Rockefeller SP 29 Apr, 1 May (EM).

**Indigo Bunting:** Saugerties 12 Apr; 15 Sterling Forest 29 May (MM).

**Dickcissel:** Muscoot Farm 22 May (TJ); MC 29 May (BV).

**E. Meadowlark:** arr Stony Kill 17 Mar; 8 Youngsville 22 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 20 Westbrookville 15 Mar; 30 Bashakill 7 Apr; 30 CEIS 8 Apr; Tamarack Preserve 14 May.

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** m singing MC 2 Apr (TB).

**Orchard Oriole:** 3 Tarrytown L 24 Apr; 3 Bashakill 6 May; many other sightings.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Lake Lincolndale 5 Mar (JHan); Roscoe 5, 16, 29 Mar, 10 Apr (MG, RG); Nyack 9 Mar (CW, GBr).

**Com. Redpoll:** scattered reports in Mar from SULL and DUTC; 38 Claryville 5 Mar; 52 Bashakill 9 Mar; last 5 Parksville 1 Apr (SRa).

**Pine Siskin:** 25 Bashakill 9 Mar; 25 Woodbourne 26 Apr, 14 May; MC 24 May.

**EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH (R9):** ad m Pine Bush 21 Feb – 3 May (KM), origin?, likely escape.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 Parksville 5 Mar (SRa); 4 Claryville 26 Mar; 5 Parksville 7 Apr (SRa); 8 Claryville early Apr (CB).

#### **EXOTICS**

**Chukar:** Bashakill 15 Apr (ScB, LV)

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## **REGION 10—MARINE**

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The spring season featured a few notable rarities, some good pelagic results, and an unusually early peak of landbird migration followed by weather conditions not conducive to concentrations of migrants.

Weather conditions this spring were closer to normal than the past several years, which were extremely warm. The average temperature in March at Islip was 40.4° F, 0.6° above normal. Precipitation was 3.04", 1.72" below normal. April and May were warmer than normal across the Region, and precipitation was near normal. April's average temperature at Islip was 50.6° F, 1.5° above normal. Precipitation was 4.40", 0.27" above normal. The average temperature in May was 62.1° F, 2.9° above normal, and precipitation was 3.81", 0.09" below normal. However, a blocking weather pattern set up across the country

*The Kingbird* 2011 September; 61 (3)

279

around 9-20 May. This resulted in a persistent low pressure trough across the east, with cloudy conditions and prevailing winds with an easterly component. In Central Park there were 17 days in May with measurable precipitation. Because of these conditions there were few days with concentrations of migrant landbirds in our area.

A modest winter finch invasion continued into the season. Common Redpolls continued into early April, with sightings of flocks numbering up to 25 in March. Small numbers of Pine Siskins were reported into April, with one late report on 24 May in Broadchannel, Queens. There were also sightings of White-winged Crossbills in March and April.

Rarities lingering from winter included a **Ross's Goose** in Bridgehampton, a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, and a **Varied Thrush** in Central Park through 1 May. A Red-headed Woodpecker continued in Central Park through the late date of 13 May. At least three other "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teals** were recorded in the Region this season, into early April. The maximum count of Harlequin Ducks at Point Lookout, Nassau County, was nine, more than in recent years. The last report was 9 April.

A pelagic trip out of Freeport, Nassau County on 27 March went as far as 25 miles offshore. Results included 250 Northern Gannets (primarily adults), 25 Bonaparte's Gulls, four Iceland Gulls, eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls, two Glaucous Gulls, two **Common Murres**, 230 Razorbills, and 90 unidentified large alcids. Angus Wilson, John Shemilt, and Keegan Corcoran went offshore of Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk County on 21 May and recorded two Great Shearwaters, 22 Sooty Shearwaters, one Manx Shearwater, 385 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, one **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, 33 **Red Phalaropes**, two **Arctic Terns**, two Dovekies, and 18 **Atlantic Puffins**. Another **Arctic Tern** was seen by Bob Kurtz and Bobby Berlinger at Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk County on 22 May. A **Red Phalarope** was seen and photographed at the unusual location of Flushing Meadow-Corona Park, Queens County on 20 May.

There were few other rarities this season. The highlight certainly was an adult **White Ibis** discovered at Mount Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island on 25 April by Jeff Stetson. It was re-located on 29 April a couple of miles away at Great Kills Park and seen by many, despite its habit of frequenting ponds surrounded by dense vegetation. It continued to be seen at this location through the end of May. Joan Quinlan spotted a **Swallow-tailed Kite** on 25 April at Robert Moses State Park. As usual, the sighting was associated with strong southerly winds, and it followed reports in New Jersey. A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was seen and well described by Lauren Kras on 5 May in East Marion, Suffolk County. A **White-winged Dove** was present at Jones Beach West End on 15 May, discovered by Andrew Baksh and Doug Futuyma. A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported by Dave Eib at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 25 May. A male Boat-tailed Grackle was seen in Central Park from 10 April through the reporting period, most unusual away from the immediate coast.

An influx of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was noted beginning in mid-May and lasting through the last days of the month. Congregations of up to eight were noted, including many immature birds.

The landbird migration in our area was inhibited by the weather conditions through what usually is the peak of the migration. Repeating the pattern of recent years, there was a major influx of both long- and short-distance migrants beginning 25 April and continuing into early May, with a seemingly odd mix of species typically considered early and late migrants. This year, peak landbird diversity occurred during this period. For example, 24 species of warblers were recorded in Central Park on 29 April, and 29 species were there on 3 May. The landbird migration was much more pronounced in the western portions of the Region than over Long Island, especially early. However, a fall-out of migrants was noted at Jones Beach State Park on 24 May including Hooded, Tennessee, Wilson's, and Blackburnian Warblers, and Bobolink.

While the landbird migration was generally unspectacular, it was a good season for incursions of a number of typically southern species into our area. Most impressive was the number of reports of Yellow-throated Warbler. At least 13 different individuals occurred in the Region. Several stayed for extended periods, including birds at Clove Lakes Park, Staten Island from 18-30 April and Forest Park, Queens County from 7-15 May. Sporadic reports beginning 23 April at Connetquot River State Park, Suffolk County, may have been an individual staying through the season. Ten or more Prothonotary Warblers occurred in the Region, including a bird at Prospect Park, Brooklyn and two at Willowbrook Park, Staten Island, in the last week of May. There were also at least 15 distinct reports of Summer Tanager, including a territorial pair discovered in East Hampton, Suffolk County on 26 May and remaining through the season.

**Common Raven** reports were again widespread in the Region. A pair nested in Kew Gardens, Queens County for the third year, but the nest was abandoned in mid-April. It is possible that major storms on 15-17 April contributed to the failure of the nest. Possible nesting activity was observed in April at the water tower in Roslyn, Nassau County, where ravens have frequently been seen during the past several years, but observers were unable to confirm the presence of a nest or observe any fledglings. Four birds were seen there on 24 April, the maximum observation of the season.

Up to 15 **Mitred Parakeets** were seen in Queens County this season, including a pair copulating at Hillcrest, and a pair returning to a nest site in Kew Gardens for approximately the sixth year. Unfortunately, many of the birds appeared unhealthy this year, exhibiting poor feather and beak condition and feather bleaching as seen in previous years. The causes may potentially include dietary deficiencies, a communicable disease, inbreeding, and/or cage wear.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; Calv – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), SUFF; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; DOP – Drier-Offerman P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Heckscher SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; KP – Kissena Park, QUEE; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay, SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; nm – nautical miles; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Riis P, QUEE; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; VSSP – Valley Stream SP, NASS; WPP – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 4 SMSP 5 Mar (JGl); DOP 5-10 Mar (AxW, SB).

Snow Goose: max 3500 Jam Bay 4 Mar (PD).

**ROSS'S GOOSE (R10):** Bridgehampton, SUFF thru 13 Mar (DF); Jam Bay 19-20 Mar (fide TJ).

**Cackling Goose:** Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, SUFF 6-8 Mar (AnW); 2 Capri L, West Islip, SUFF 5 Mar (fide BGr); VCP 12 Mar (AB); Southampton, SUFF 1 Apr (RA).

**Wood Duck:** max 19 SMSP 11 May (JGI), large number.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** CCP 12 Mar (RK).

**N. Shoveler:** 225 PP 9-14 Mar (RJ), large number.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 105 Terrell R CP, SUFF 27 Mar (SSM, PJL).

**"EURASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** Jam Bay thru 7 Mar (mob); 2 Shorts Pd, Bridgehampton, SUFF 6 Mar (SSM); Goethals Br Pd, RICH 7-9 Apr (RV).

**Redhead:** 31 Jam Bay 1 Mar (DG, CF); 25 Baisley Pd P, QUEE 5 Mar (SA, CF); max 104 Capri L, 5 Mar (MM); 76 Capri L 11 Mar (BB); large numbers.

**Greater Scaup:** 850 CRSP 6 Mar (JGI), large number; 3000 New Suffolk, SUFF 1 Mar (MLL); 20,000 Dead Horse Bay, KING 13 Mar (RBo); max 25,000 Plumb Beach 1 Mar (CF, DG).

**TUFTED DUCK x scaup:** Mass 12 Mar (SSM, PJL).

**Lesser Scaup:** max 1550 Eastport 13 Mar (SSM).

**King Eider:** fem AMA 6 Mar (SSM); fem MP 12 Mar (CS); m East Hampton 13 Mar (AnW); JBWE 10 Apr (KF); Plum I, SUFF 13 May (JSe); 2 drakes East Marion, SUFF 31 May thru (RBA).

**Com. Eider:** 3500 MP 3 Mar (SF); 200 CCP 5 Mar (RK); max 5000 MP 27 Mar 50 (SSM); Shinn 16 Apr; 25 Plum I 13 May (JSe); 50 MP 29 May (RBA); 24 East Marion 31 May thru (RBA); small numbers FT, JBWE, other locations east thru.

**Harlequin Duck:** max 9 Pt. Lookout, NASS 8 Mar (RK); 6 Pt. Lookout 9 Apr, last; Dead Horse Bay 1 May (RBo).

**Surf Scoter:** max 15,000 MP 3 Mar (SF).

**White-winged Scoter:** 53 FT 16 May (DG), small numbers thru.

**Black Scoter:** max 25,000 MP 3 Mar (SF); 25 RMSP 27 Apr (SSM); small numbers thru.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Jam Bay thru 12 Mar.

**Com. Merganser:** 5 Jam Bay 5 Mar (SA, CF).

**N. Bobwhite:** fem Hampton Bays 30 Mar (ES), only report.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 1 reported JBSP.

**Wild Turkey:** max 21 Ridge, SUFF 5 Apr (RK).

**Red-throated Loon:** max 74 RMSP 27 Apr (SSM).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Montauk, SUFF 2 Mar (CS); Culloden Pt, Montauk, SUFF 6 Mar (SSM); JBSP 26 Mar (KF).

**Eared Grebe:** Ama thru 4 Mar (CS, HM, K&SF); East Hampton 12 Mar (CS).

**N. Fulmar:** 5 offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC).

**Great Shearwater:** 2 offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC).

**Sooty Shearwater:** East Hampton 14 Apr (AnW); East Hampton 23 Apr (AnW), early; 2 RMSP 15 May (SSM, PJL); 2 RMSP 18 May (SSM); 4 RMSP 20 May (SA, MN, DF); 21 offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC); 3 RMSP 22 May (RBA); MP 29 May (RBA).

**Manx Shearwater:** 2 RMSP 14 May (TWB, GB); Ama 15 May (AnW); offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 11 CCP-Shinn 14 May (SSM, PJL); 11 Ama 15 May (AnW); 144 RMSP 15 May (SSM, PJL), large number; 10 RMSP 20 May (SA, MN, DF); 385 offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC); large number.

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC).

**N. Gannet:** ad 250 offshore Freeport, NASS 27 Mar (PG, *et al.*); max 527 East Hampton 17 Apr (AnW); numbers reported interior coastal waters 9-16 Apr.

**Am. Bittern:** Grand St., NEWY 8 Apr (Doug Stern), unusual location; Jam Bay 3 May (JO); CP 18 May (ABi, mob).

**Least Bittern:** E 52 St., NEWY 24 May (AF), identified by nocturnal flight calls.

**Snowy Egret:** 38 Jam Bay 9 Apr (SB); 41 Jam Bay 10 Apr (AB); 46 Jam Bay 15 Apr (AB); large numbers.

**Little Blue Heron:** arr 7 Apr; max 9 Jam Bay 15 Apr (AB).

**Tricolored Heron:** arr 9 Apr; more reports than recent years incl max 5 Jam Bay 15-17 Apr (AB).

**Cattle Egret:** Northville, SUFF 9 Apr (MLL); West Shore Expwy. at South Av, RICH 22 Apr (DJ); 2 Mt. Loretto, RICH 30 Apr (SIW); Captree Island, SUFF 9 May (SSM).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 25 FBF 5 Apr (RB), large number.

**WHITE IBIS:** ad MLUA 25 Apr (JS, mob), continuing GKP 29 Apr thru (mob).

**Glossy Ibis:** 71 Willowbrook P 25 May (RV), large number.

**Black Vulture:** 2 Fresh Kills, RICH 8 Mar; Manorville, SUFF 13 Mar (Bob Washburn); 2 CLP 6 Apr (ACi); 2 Sharrots Pd, RICH 25 Apr (MS); 2 Greenlawn, SUFF 23 May (Donna DeSousa, ph).

**Turkey Vulture:** max 35 Eger Nursing Home, RICH 9 Apr (ACi); numerous L.I. reports from 11 Mar, incl. 12 East Northport. SUFF 11 Mar (VS); 11 Plum I 22 Apr (JSe).

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** from winter.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** RMSP 25 Apr (JQ).

**Bald Eagle:** FP 30 Apr (RJK), unusual location; 2 imm CP 6 May (JD), late.

**N. Goshawk:** Jam Bay 7 Mar (DG, *et al.*).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** ad FT thru 12 Mar; PP 11 Apr (PD); Northville 26 Apr (MLL).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Northville 26 Apr (MLL).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 Calv thru 16 Mar (LO).

**Am. Kestrel:** 15 Calv 28 Mar (LO); 15 Calv 9 Apr (SF); 20 Calv 1 May (SF), large numbers.

**Virginia Rail:** Sunnyside, RICH 4 Apr, found dead (fide EJ).

**Sora:** River Rd, RICH 8 May, 16 May (SIW, D. Eib, *et al.*); E 52 St. 22 May (AF), identified by nocturnal flight calls.

**Com. Moorhen:** 3 River Rd 16 May (ACi, SIW, *et al.*); Jam Bay 21 May (PIL, mob).

**Piping Plover:** Napeague, SUFF 2 Mar (CS), early.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** 2 Sebonac Inlet, SUFF 25-29 May (RBA, SSM, mob).

**“Western” Willet:** PB 22 May, breeding plumage, PB 28 May, 1st summer plumage, CCP 30 May, breeding plumage (SSM, PJJL).

**Upland Sandpiper:** RMSP 26 May (JQ).

**Whimbrel:** MNSA 20 May (SyS, JG).

**Red Knot:** max 142 Jam Bay 11 May (AB); 140 Jam Bay 13 May (SSM); 125 Jam Bay 21 May (SA); 121 CCP 27 May (SSM).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 2 Jam Bay 13-16 Apr (RF, SA, CF); Georgica Pd, SUFF 17 Apr (AnW); 5 Jam Bay 20 Apr (AB); MNSA 6 May (RJK); Oakwood Beach, RICH 8 May (DEib); Shinn 14 May (RK).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Big Egg Marsh, QUEE 22 Apr (CF), early; 2 JBWE 27 Apr (MM).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Jam Bay 20-22 May (RK, SA, CF, mob).

**RED PHALAROPE (R10):** FMCP 20 May (fide DG, ph); 33 offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1 sum CCP 14 May (SSM, PJJL).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 325 FT 1 Mar (DG, CF); 100 WPP 6 Apr (ACi); other counts much lower.

**Black-headed Gull:** FT 1 Mar (DG, CF); ad FT 8 Mar (AnW, *et al.*); SY Ditch Plains, Montauk, SUFF 27 Mar (SSM, PJJL).

**Little Gull:** no reports.

**Laughing Gull:** arr 21 Mar.

**Iceland Gull:** over 15 reports incl 2Y around Jones Inlet, NASS thru.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Wintering ads:

Northville thru 10 Mar, FT thru 12 Mar,

Napeague thru 25 Mar, Mecox, SUFF thru 25

Mar; 8 offshore Freeport 27 Mar (PG, *et al.*);

mid-May influx incl. 7 RMSP 16 May (SSM),

Plum Beach. KING 16 May (DG). 2 RMSP 17

May (PJJL). 6 DP 18 May (SSM). 3 CSP 18 May

(SSM). 6 DP 21 May (SSM). JBWE 22 May

(SA), 4 Nickerson Beach, NASS 27 May (PP),

DOP 28 May (AxW); *intro.*

**Glaucous Gull:** Orient Pt. SUFF thru; 2 win GKP-WPP 12 Mar-9 Apr (SIW); Pt Lookout 19

Mar (GS), 2W offshore Freeport 27 Mar (PG, *et al.*); Plum I 13 & 27 May (JSe).

**Gull-billed Tern:** JBWE 24 Apr (JQ); JBWE 27

Apr (MM); 2 JBWE 29 Apr (DK); max 8 JBWE

8 May (MM); 6 JBWE 9 May (SyS, *et al.*).

**Caspian Tern:** 2 Mecox 17 Apr (JSh); Lotus L, Sayville. SUFF 17 Apr (DR); 3 Mecox 18 Apr

(RA); 2 Mecox 19 Apr; Saggs 19-23 Apr (KF);

Mecox 23 Apr (AnW).

**Black Tern:** Orient Pt. 5 May (Lauren Kraas); RMSP 15 May (KF, SF); 3 RMSP 15 May (SSM, PJJL); Roosevelt I, NEWY 17 May (AF), unusual location; PP 18 May (AxW), unusual location; 2 PB 22 May (KF, SF); 2 RMSP 23 May (JGI).

**Roseate Tern:** 3 RMSP 2 May (SSM); Coney I

Creek 16 May (DG); 2 PB 22 May (KF, SF); 21

Orient Pt 28 May (JSe); max 22 Cedar Beach,

SUFF 29 May (JSe).

**Com. Tern:** max 690 Orient Pt 28 May (JSe).

**ARCTIC TERN:** 2 offshore Shinn 21 May

(AnW, JSh, KC); RMSP 22 May (BB, RJK!).

**Black Skimmer:** max 550 Nickerson Beach, NASS 22 May (BB).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** RMSP 15 May (KF, SF, SSM, PJJL); Ama 15 May (AnW); few.

**Dovekie:** 2 offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC).

**COMMON MURRE:** 2 offshore Freeport 27 Mar (PG, *et al.*).

**Razorbill:** 12 Ama 6 Mar (SSM); 7 MP 13 Mar

(AnW); 32 East Hampton 27 Mar (SSM, PJJL);

230 offshore Freeport 27 Mar (PG, *et al.*).

**unid. large alcid:** 90 offshore Freeport 27 Mar (PG, *et al.*).

**Black Guillemot:** MP 13 Mar (AnW).

**ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** 18 offshore Shinn 21 May (AnW, JSh, KC).

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** East Marion, SUFF 5 May (Lauren Krasl).  
**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** JBWE 15 May (AB, DF, mob).

**Monk Parakeet:** 2 nests Hicksville, NASS (DK).

**Barn Owl:** Nested Jam Bay for 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

**Long-eared Owl:** 5 PBP thru 5 Mar.

**Short-eared Owl:** Jam Bay 1 Mar (DG, CF); Shinn thru 14 Apr.

**Com. Nighthawk:** few reports; max 4 E 52 St. 10 May (AF).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** PP 30 Apr (RJ, SA, HL, CF, mob).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** CP thru 13 May (mob); JBWE 9 May (SyS, *et al.*).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** RMSP 25-26 May (SSM), unusual location.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** CP 3 May (mob); Muttontown Pres, NASS 8 May (BF); Allison Pd P 17 May (MS, *et al.*); FP 20 May (DF); CP 26 May (JDi); CLP 26 May (MS).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** SMSP 20 May (VP); Eastport, SUFF 22 May (KF, SF); CP 26-27 May (fide JDi, CC); PP 31 May (RJ).

**E. Phoebe:** RMSP 1 Mar (KF), early.

**N. Shrike:** Napeague thru 8 Mar,

**White-eyed Vireo:** HLSP 6 Apr (SyS, *et al.*).

**COMMON RAVEN (R10):** pr nested Kew Gardens. QUEE for 3<sup>rd</sup> yr, nest abandoned between 18-23 Apr (SA, CF, SW, RJK); 2 FP 24 Apr (SA, CF); 2 FP 30 Apr (BB); CRSP 1 Mar (GQ); Yaphank, SUFF 4 Mar (DH); Hendrix Creek, KING 8 Mar (RB); Rocky Pt Pres 13 Mar (DH); FBF 13 Mar (PD); Coney I, KING 18 Mar (DG); FBF 18 Mar (DG); Eltingville, RICH 2 Apr; Huguenot, RICH 13 Apr; 2 Oakland L. QUEE 29 Apr (EM); Hampton Bays, SUFF 30 Apr (RK); 1-2 Roslyn, NASS 6 Apr thru (PM, MN); 4 Roslyn 24 Apr (MN); 3 reports of single birds, BRON; *intro*.

**Purple Martin:** colonies Lemon Creek P, RICH, Dunc Rd. West Hampton, SUFF, Pine Neck landing, SUFF, L. Panamoca, Ridge, SUFF.

**Tree Swallow:** from winter.

**Bank Swallow:** migr 5 RMSP 25 May (SSM); RMSP 27 May (SSM), late.

**Cliff Swallow:** HLSP 7 Apr (KF), early.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** JBWE 10 Apr (SA, *et al.*), unusual location.

**Marsh Wren:** Bryant P, NEWY 19 May (mob), unusual location.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** Inwood Hill P, NEWY 15 May (JD).

## GRAY-CHEEKED/BICKNELL'S THRUSH:

VSSP 3 May (RJK); APP 3 May (RJK);

Willowbrook P, RICH 25 May (RV).

**VARIED THRUSH:** CP thru 1 May (mob).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Absent until 3<sup>rd</sup> wk May, then abundant.

## LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** HLSP 2-22 Apr (mob); CO 18 Apr (TF); CP 26 Apr (Ken Gale); CP 1 May.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr HLSP 7 Apr (PJL), Reg record early.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr sev loc 24 Apr (mob). Reg record early.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** PP 10-14 Apr (mob); WPP 12 Apr (RV); APP 13 Apr (EM); HLSP 14 Apr (RJK, mob); CLP 18-30 Apr (EJ, mob); PP 18 Apr (mob); CRSP 23-24 Apr (JT), individual possibly staying thru; CP 25-28 Apr (mob); Grace Estate, East Hampton, SUFF 25 Apr (KR); CP 1-5 May (JM, mob); HLSP 5 May (KF, SF); FP 7-15 May (EM, GH, SA, mob); Hunters Garden, Eastport, SUFF 25 May (PS); *intro*.

**Cerulean Warbler:** William T. Davis Refuge, RICH 22 Apr (EJ), early; 4 other reports.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** NYBG 14-21 Apr (mob); Arshamomaque Pres, SUFF 23 Apr (J. Wittenberg); PP 24 Apr (RB); 2 PP 26 Apr (fide PD); PP 27 Apr – 1 May (mob); JBWE 8 May (MM); PP 23-24 May (mob), late; 2 Willowbrook P 25 May (fide RV), 1 banded, late; *intro*.

**Kentucky Warbler:** CP 3-5 May (mob); Allison Pd P 9 May (MS); Rocky Pt Pres 11 May (RK); Jam Bay 12-14 May (KM, mob); Cutchogue, SUFF 27 Apr, found dead (R&LK), ph.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr 13 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** appx 20 reports incl: Willowbrook P 25-26 May (RV), late; singing m CRSP 28 May (KF).

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** CP 21 May (fide DF), ph.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Upland Farms, Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 13 Apr (DR); SMSP 16 Apr (P. Gildersleeve), ph; APP 26 Apr (JR).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 2 JBWE 21 Mar (JQ, GF); singing m Edgemere, QUEE 21 May (CF).

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** 2 Big Egg Marsh 5 Mar (SA, CF).

**Seaside Sparrow:** CP 27 Apr (mob), ph C. Vornberger, unusual location.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Bryant P 3 May (mob); JBWE 3 May (BF); 2 CP 8 May (SA, JD, *et al.*); CP 10 May (JR); SMSP 11 May (VP).

**Summer Tanager:** at least 15 reports incl: PP 26 Apr (J. Salas), ph, first; pr East Hampton 26 May thru (AC).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Lutheran Cem., QUEE (D. Cavallero); JBWE 27 Apr; 2 PP 1 May (RJ, HL); CP 7-8 May (mob); HLSP 19 May (RJK); GKP 21 May (SIW, D. Eib); DOP 28 May (AxW); m on territory, Eastport, SUFF for 3<sup>rd</sup> season.

**Dickcissel:** 2 Garvies Pt. Rd., Glen Cove, NASS 29 Apr (fide MN), ph P. Gildersleeve; Calverton 20 May (DK, RM).

**Bobolink:** PP 29 Apr (mob); 4 MLUA 18 May (EJ).

**E. Meadowlark:** several reports Calv.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** fem Jam Bay 25 May (D. Eib!).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** CP 10 Apr thru, rare away from coast; pr prob nested Little Neck Bay, QUEE (EM).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 9 Gilgo Beach, SUFF 19 Mar (RBA); 4 Gilgo Beach 10 Apr (RBA); **Com. Redpoll:** 24 JBWE 5 Mar (SA, *et al.*); 25 CCP 5 Mar (RK); 2 HLSP 8 Mar (RJK); 2 CP 1-3 Apr (P. Pollock, JD), last.

**Pine Siskin:** 6 PP thru 13 Mar; CP 18 Mar – 18 Apr (JD); Grymes Hill, RICH 20 Apr (HF); JBWE 25 Apr (RJK, BB); PP 30 Apr (RJ, mob); Broad Channel, QUEE 24 May (RBA).

## EXOTICS

**Mitred Parakeet:** appx 15 Forest Hills, QUEE 19-20 Mar (KM); 12 Hillcrest, QUEE 14 Apr (J. Forrester, SA); pr copulating Hillcrest 15 Apr (SA, RA); 6 Hillcrest 16 Apr (RJK); last Hillcrest 18 Apr (J. Forrester); 3 Forest Hills 7 May (KM); 3 Forest Hills 10 May (SA); 2 Kew Gardens, mid-May thru, pr returning to nest site (A. Craig); *intro.*

**European Goldfinch:** Grymes Hill 17 Apr (HF).



## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in **BOLD**; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; Alt – Alternate plumage; Am. – American; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; CO – confirmed nesting; Com. – Common; E. – Eastern; FL – fledgling; FY – adult feeding young; I – Island; imm – immature; *intro* – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; N. – Northern; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; W. – Western; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;  
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19  
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64  
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21  
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December





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